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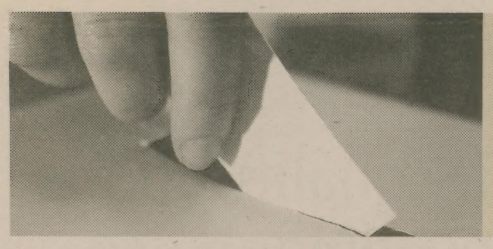
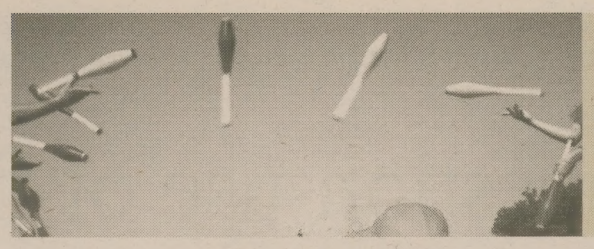


Election results

pages two and three



Juggling jamboree

page twenty-two

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MARTLET

Thursday, March 10, 2005 | The ...er | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 25

the power of women & the myths that surround them

pages 12-13

to remember Juliette

Candidates question use of free, private office during campaign

Chair kicks director out of meeting, PSF slate accused of electoral indiscretion

by Megan Stewart

Tuesday's UVSS board meeting erupted as accusations flew and a director complained of a stifled debate, prompting the chair to repeatedly call for order and temporarily send one director at large out of the room.

Concerns were raised over the use of a private office during the election and Chairperson Joanna Groves was asked to resign as chair of the electoral committee.

Question period at the opening of the meeting initially revolved around the fact that one election slate, Putting Students First (PSF), used the office of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) as a meeting space during the recent election campaign. CFS is a non-aligned, independent group that lobbies on behalf of all students.

PSF chairperson candidate Penny-Lane Beames said there was no conflict of interest.

The space, which sits empty despite the CFS paying to lease the room, was apparently used as a campaign room for PSF during the last two elections. Groves holds one of the keys. She said she gave the key to Beames for UVSS business, and didn't realize the room was being used for campaigning this year until late in the election.

Beames said she would re-think using the office for slate purposes in the future.

The B.C. organizer for CFS told *the Martlet* he had "absolutely no idea" that the office was being used. "It is not our intention to provide resources," said Michael Gardiner, adding that he will be making an inquiry to the electoral officer.

He said he is sure that PSF was not authorized to use the space, which the CFS keeps in case it needs to organize in Victoria.

Director at large April Griffin complained of an unfair advantage for students who have access during campaign time to a private, free room. "It comes as a surprise to me," said Griffin, who campaigned as an independent in 2004, "that this resource was available to some students while not to others."

Director of Finance Agata Lis, who ran with the Coalition of Independent Students slate, voiced serious concerns with the fact that PSF used the office during the campaign. "I'm paying tuition fees to the UVSS to support the CFS and that money was used to provide a space for the opposing slate," she told *the Martlet.*

FILE PHOTO

Joanna Groves.

Groves said that any complaints should be directed to the electoral office. At this point Groves, as chairperson, said the debate was becoming irrelevant to the proceedings of the board and moved that the meeting return to the agenda.

"You guys are great at stymieing debate," said director at large Tom Grainger to certain PSF members of the board, and asked if he could use the CFS office to host his hockey team.

Calling him out of order for four successive disruptive comments, Groves told Grainger to leave the room. "Out," she said. "Out for five minutes."

Grainger then challenged the ruling of the chair, but when the board voted, showed his support for her initial ruling and yawned loudly when asked to debate his point.

At this time, director at large Bhupinder Vinning moved that Groves resign as a chair of the electoral committee. The committee works with the Electoral Office to ensure a fair election and acts as a sounding board for complaints and concerns. No board member who is running for re-election can sit on the committee.

Mike Tan, director of services and Hari Alluri, director of academics, sit on the committee with Groves. Lis left her position on the committee to run for the position of chairperson.

Vinning said there was a conflict of interest with Groves since she sat on the electoral committee, and was perceived to have aided candidates from the PSF slate.

Lis, who seconded the motion, voiced suspicion that Groves had "coached" Beames during a debate and had communicated through "sign language."

In the 2004 UVSS election Groves and Lane ran with PSF, and the outgoing chair said that it's "no surprise" that people maintaining a close working relationship might "hang out after work." She was even reluctant to label a recent gathering with candidates as a meeting.

"I guess you could say that it was a meeting," sidestepped Groves, "but you could also call it a circle format since we were hanging out. So no, there was no meeting. I wasn't helping PSF with their campaign or any other candidates, for that matter."

Groves maintained that she had acted professionally and that a he-said she-said argument would not prove fruitful. "People can continue to debate my trustworthiness," she said, "but if there is a compliant as to my actions I'd like to hear it."

The motion calling that Groves resign immediately as chair of the electoral committee was defeated.

Disqualifications pending

by David Karp

Two candidates are facing possible disqualification from the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) elections. Both candidates are running to be directors at large on the board of directors with the Coalition of Independent Students slate.

Mike Waters, vice president of the Engineering Student Society, was told he is pending disqualification. "The elections office has ... found that you have indeed exceeded the limit of 50 posters ... by more than 50 per cent, which is considered a serious offense," reads an email sent to Waters by the electoral office. Waters said he was baffled by the email, claiming there was no way he put up more than 63 posters. A candidate must have 75 posters before they can be disqualified.

Waters told the Martlet he became concerned after he saw strangers counting his posters on the evening of Sunday, Feb. 27. He says he was in the electoral office every day from Monday to Thursday, checking to make sure there were no problems with his campaign.

The electoral office sent the email expressing their concerns on Friday. "It's like an Olympic gold medalist being disqualified because their swim cap is too big," Waters said, saying he didn't feel he was helped by any extra posters.

At press time, Waters had not yet met with electoral officers to discuss whether or not he would be disqualified. He added that he is confident he has enough votes to win a seat on the board.

Michael Gismondi, a fourth-year political science student, has already been disqualified. Members of his slate say Gismondi had a friend campaigning for him. "It is absolutely disgraceful that they would ban somebody from running for the actions of other people," said current director at large Tom Granger. "There is no way that somebody can be expected to control the actions of everybody else and I believe it is cheap."

It is expected that Gismondi will appeal the decision.

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ELECTION RESULTS 2005

(E) = Elected

CHAIR
Penny-Lane Beames (E) *
1158
Agata Lis 1148

FINANCE
Erik Bekker 1056
Shamus Reid (E) 1217

ACADEMICS
Loren Husband (E) 1313
Joe Squire 939

SERVICES
Mark Chandler (E) 1144
Darcy Lindberg 744
Christian Richardson 460

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
Chadi Akouri (E) 755
Ashley Aron 642
Spencer Cleave 550
Heather Cochran (E) 915
Matt Cooper (E) 691
Erik Fell (E) 671
Bill Gallop 545
Becky Jackson 607
Jennifer King (E) 685
Meg Kushnir 599
Julie Lee (E) 797
Danielle Marshall 574
Jonny Morris (E) 699
Mike Mulroney (E) 667
Jeremy David Peters 459
Chloe Raxlen (E) 754
Rafael Scarnati 418
Graeme Scott 559
Jamie Strachan 658
Bhupinder Vinning (E) 772
Kyle Vucko (E) 698

REFERENDUM
Yes 1975
No 500

** Subject to automatic recount as per UVSS policy*

Candidates nervously line up to check results as the votes rolled in last week. A recount and mail-in votes from co-op students could change the chairperson results.
NIC HUME PHOTO

Chairperson race too close to call

Beames ahead of Lis by ten votes, recount underway

by David Karp

It will be at least another week before students learn who has been elected as the UVSS chairperson.

The tentative count after polls closed March 4 showed only 10 votes separating Penny-Lane Beames from Agata Lis, who trails with a total of 1,148. The count does not include votes from co-op students, which are coming through the mail. They must be received by March 25.

There will also be an automatic recount because of the narrow margin separating the candidates.

Over 2,500 students turned out to cast ballots in the elections, representing about 14 per cent of eligible voters. Voter turnout increased from 2,211 ballots cast last year.

With only a quarter of votes counted, Lis led by a slim margin. The library was the last polling station to report, and it was expected that the reaming 693 votes would decide the outcome. Lis took the library by nine votes, cutting Beames' lead to 10.

Mail-in co-op votes may play a roll in the final tally. Last year only three votes were cast via mail. This year might be different as Lis' slate, the Coalition of Independent Students (CIS), campaigned to lower co-op fees. Seventeen ballots were sent to co-op students.

Reactions to the results were mixed, though Lis did not seem concerned. "It's okay, it's all about the recount," she said.

Beames kept a low profile but made a few appearances throughout the evening to hug supporters.

Putting Students First (PSF) had a strong finish in the executive positions. In addition to Beames' tentative chairperson victory, Shamus Reid replaces Lis as director of finance and Loren Husband comfortably defeated Joe Squire to secure the post as director of academics.

Mark Chandler, the lone independent candidate for an executive position, was elected as director of services.

PSF was shut out of any director at large seats. Seven of the nine CIS candidates won seats while the remaining two openings went to independents. One CIS candidate, Mike Waters, is pending disqualification, and another, Michael Gismondi, is appealing his disqualification. Their vote result has not been made public.

Students also voted to increase student fees for Access UVic!, the UVSS constituency organization for students with a disability. Starting this September, funding from full-time students will increase to $1 from 50 cents each semester.

The referendum passed with an 80 per cent approval. Polling stations in the engineering lab wing provided the biggest opposition to the referendum, with 46 per cent of ballots opposed to the fee increase.

Joanna Groves, outgoing UVSS chairperson, said she is happy to have done her time.

"Four years on the board of directors is a long time, so I'm pretty happy I'm graduating and going out into the real world."

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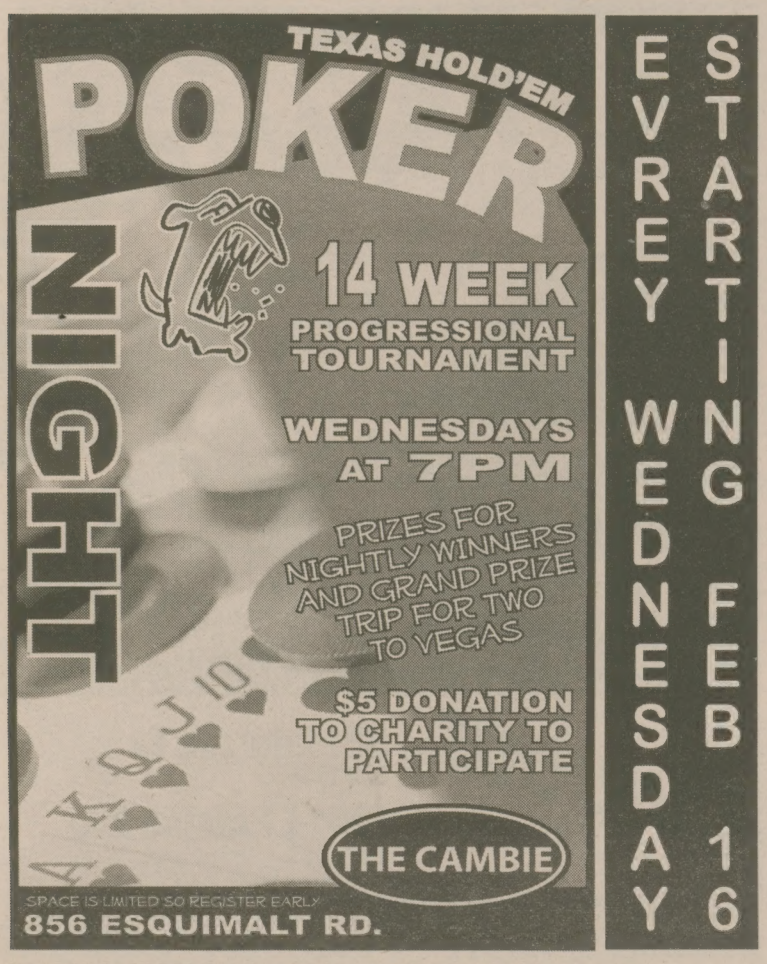

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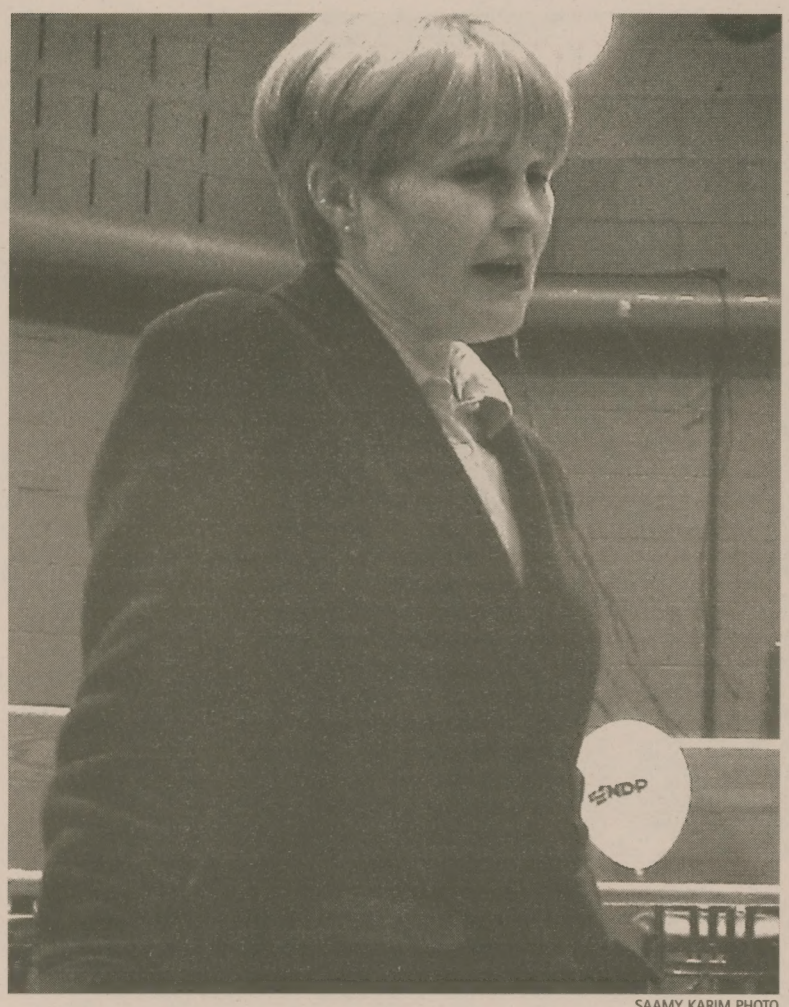

SAAMY KARIM PHOTO

NDP MP Joy MacPhail shares the lessons she has learned during her 14-year stint in provincial politics at a March 8 talk in the SUB.

NDP house leader Joy MacPhail moves on

'We're going to be Joy-less' says colleague

by David Karp

After 14 years in provincial politics, a dogged Joy MacPhail is ready to move on.

This week is the NDP house leader's last in the B.C. legislature. On March 8, she was at UVic to talk about International Women's Day and reflect on her time in politics.

MacPhail was laid back and cracked lots of jokes as she spoke to students in the Student Union Building.

A former deputy premier, MacPhail held many senior cabinet posts with the NDP, including minister of finance, minister of education and minister of health. "We're going to be Joy-less," said Charley Beresford, the NDP candidate for Oak Bay-Gordon Head.

MacPhail took the opportunity to share with students four lessons she learned during her time in B.C. politics.

She expressed disappointment about the public's cynicism regarding politicians, saying she believes "all politicians get into politics for the right reasons." MacPhail added that politics is an honourable profession.

As her second lesson, MacPhail stressed that all voices need to be considered. "You have to listen to all voices even if you disagree with them, even if you think that you can't stand to sit in the same room with them," she said, confessing that she probably broke this rule for the first half of her career.

MacPhail also criticized Premier Gordon Campbell for not being able to tolerate dissenting views. "He was far more open [as mayor of Vancouver] than he is now, and far less abusive towards differing opinions."

For her third point, MacPhail stressed that all parts of British Columbia are important and diverse. She admitted she used to be afraid of leaving the city. "I wouldn't want to go anywhere where they didn't have a Holt Renfrew—that's a clothing store in Vancouver," MacPhail admitted. But as she travelled she began to appreciate the surrounding areas.

She claimed British Columbia was the best province. "You know, Alberta, it's got rednecks in mountains and it's got rednecks in cities," she joked, adding, "Don't quote me on that."

She stressed she had already had enough interviews about "prancing penises," referring to an incident in 1997 where she put a wind-up toy resembling a penis on a colleague's desk. More seriously, MacPhail stressed that governments should not try to divide the province by favouring certain regions over others.

For her final lesson, MacPhail stressed the importance of the opposition party in government. She expressed shock in the NDP being denied official opposition status in the legislature. Even though they were the only other party besides the Liberals, the NDP were denied opposition status because they only had two MLAs. "It set Jenny [Kwan, the other NDP MLA] and me up to be the David against their Goliath." She iterated her time in opposition was as big an honour as her time in government.

MacPhail also stressed the importance of having new voices speak up, saying women have a different way of doing politics. However, she said she was against reforming election rules to attract more women.

"Women are under-represented in politics. But we're under-represented in the corporate boardroom too. We're under-represented in the NHL," she said. MacPhail claimed if quotas were placed requiring a minimum of women, it would undermine their credibility because they wouldn't be truly earning their positions.

MacPhail said it wasn't hard being a woman in politics, but it was hard to have young children and be in politics. "But Moe Sahota and Glen Clark faced that the same way I did," she said, saying that it didn't make a difference whether a politician was a mother or a father.

MacPhail added she was tired of doing end-of-career interviews, referring to them as "living obituary interviews."

"One reporter said, 'Oh, suck it up. At least you get some input into your obituary. When you actually die, you won't have any say in it.' So that's a good point," she chuckled.

As for what she will do with her time off, MacPhail says she doesn't have a clue, adding her 16-year-old son won't be very happy to have her home. She hinted she is considering going back to school to study math, or entering the private sector, but hadn't made up her mind. "I'm going to take a few weeks at least to contemplate the world after we elect Carole James and all of my great colleagues."

As her final words, MacPhail promised she wouldn't be making a comeback any time soon. "Thank you very much, and I won't be back."

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INSPIRE YOUR IMAGINATION

Amnesty International aids student in Myanmar

by Julia Mais

Ko Aye Aung was a second-year physics student at Dagon University in Yangon, Myanmar, when he was arrested in 1997.

His crime? He was one of the leaders at a peaceful student protest against poverty, human rights abuses and the poor quality of education in Myanmar. Amnesty International considers Ko Aye Aung to be a prisoner of conscience as he is being detained solely because of his non-violent expression of beliefs.

Originally sentenced to 14 years, Ko Aye Aung's sentence was later increased to 24 years. He has spent seven years in jail and is suffering from malaria. He is being denied access to his religious books, his exercise period has been moved to the hottest period of the day and he is reported to have been tortured.

UVic's Amnesty International chapter has adopted Ko Aye Aung's case. The group is circulating petitions both to bring attention to his plight and to pressure the Myanmar government to release him. They will have information tables set up in the SUB on March 10, March 22 and April 5.

Among the human rights abuses that the Myanmar State Peace and Development Council has perpetrated, the arbitrary arrests and the prison conditions are particularly concerning. In the year 2000, there were 1,500 political prisoners.

Prison conditions are poor, and health care for prisoners is insufficient. Prisoners are not given enough to eat, inmates are crowded, malaria and typhoid is rampant and torture is not unheard of. There have also been labour camps reported where prisoners must perform manual labour, even if they are physically unable to do so.

Once a part of British India, the country of Myanmar has a rocky history. Since the country gained independence from England, it has known a scarce 14 years of democracy. Formerly known as Burma, the country's name was changed in 1989 to more accurately reflect its ethnic diversity.

Today Myanmar is under a military dictatorship and numerous trade embargos. Even the Lonely Planet guidebook suggests it might be unethical to visit Myanmar, as the money you spend would likely end up in the hands of a military junta renowned for human rights abuses.

In 1988, after 24 years of one-party rule, anti-government protests erupted and political instability ensued. Amidst the chaos, a bloody coup was performed, and a military junta, now called the State Peace and Development Council, took power. After the coup, 1,000 demonstrators were killed and thousands more fled to the Thai border. The military dictatorship continues to this day.

Elections were held in 1990, and the opposition (the National League for Democracy) won by over 60 per cent. However, the junta refused to honour the results and began oppressing members of their opposition. The leader of the opposition is Aung San Suu Kyi, who has since won a Nobel Peace Prize for her attempts to end the dictatorship and is currently under house arrest.

Julia Mais is a member of UVic's chapter of Amnesty International.

Date-rape drugs are weapons, says MP

by Bryna Hallam

Date-rape drugs are a weapon, says a Conservative MP, and they should be treated as such.

"Date-rape drugs are a real threat to young women across the country," said James Moore, the MP for Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam. "I want to do my part to ensure that this important issue is raised both inside the House of Commons and on campuses across the country."

Moore is working to raise awareness about the dangers of date-rape drugs.

Members of Conservative clubs on campuses across Canada—including at UVic—are doing much of the legwork.

The groups began distributing pamphlets that provide information to women on how to protect themselves from date-rape drugs on March 8, in recognition of International Women's Day.

Moore also has put forth a private members' motion that recommends that Rohypnol and GHB, the most common date-rape drugs, be distinguished from other drugs such as cocaine or heroin and be classified as weapons under the Criminal Code. The new weapons classification for date-rape drugs would include tougher penalties for possession.

GHB and Rohypnol are currently dealt with and penalized the same way as drugs such as cocaine and heroin, which Moore considers "inadequate because date-rape drugs are always a precursor to a greater crime: sexual assault, rape or even kidnapping."

The bill also calls on the government to have a national awareness campaign and to develop national standards and guidelines for collecting evidence in sexual assault investigations.

PROVIDED PHOTO

A private member's bill put forth by Conservative MP James Moore would classify date-rape drugs as a weapons.

"In recent years date-rape drugs have become a real menace to women," said Moore. "The thugs and cowards who use these drugs to brutalize women need to be fought in our laws, and women need to know how to protect themselves from being victimized."

Date-rape drugs are typically used with alcohol and slipped into drinks. They often go unnoticed since they are colourless, odourless and tasteless. Once ingested, they work quickly and leave the victim unconscious and unresponsive.

People commonly have little memory of the time during which the drug was in their system. As a result, is difficult for the victim to accurately report the crime. In addition, the drug is only in the system for 72 hours, making the assault difficult to trace.

A "date-rape pill" was first reported in the United States in the early 1990s. While there are no available statistics on the use of the drugs in Canada, some incidents have been reported, and Canada's first seizure of Rohypnol occurred in January 1999.

Lola Freeman, co-ordinator of the Anti-Violence Project (AVP), confirms that there have been reports of date-rape drugs in Victoria.

"I definitely do think it's a risk for men and women who are university-aged," she said.

According to Freeman, common sense and education is key. She suggests not drinking too much when out with unknown people and to make plans with friends in order to reduce the chances of being drugged.

"Always watch your drink," she said. "It's the safest thing you can do."

She also recommends going out with friends who can watch for signs of drugs. "The big thing you can do is stick with your friends," she said.

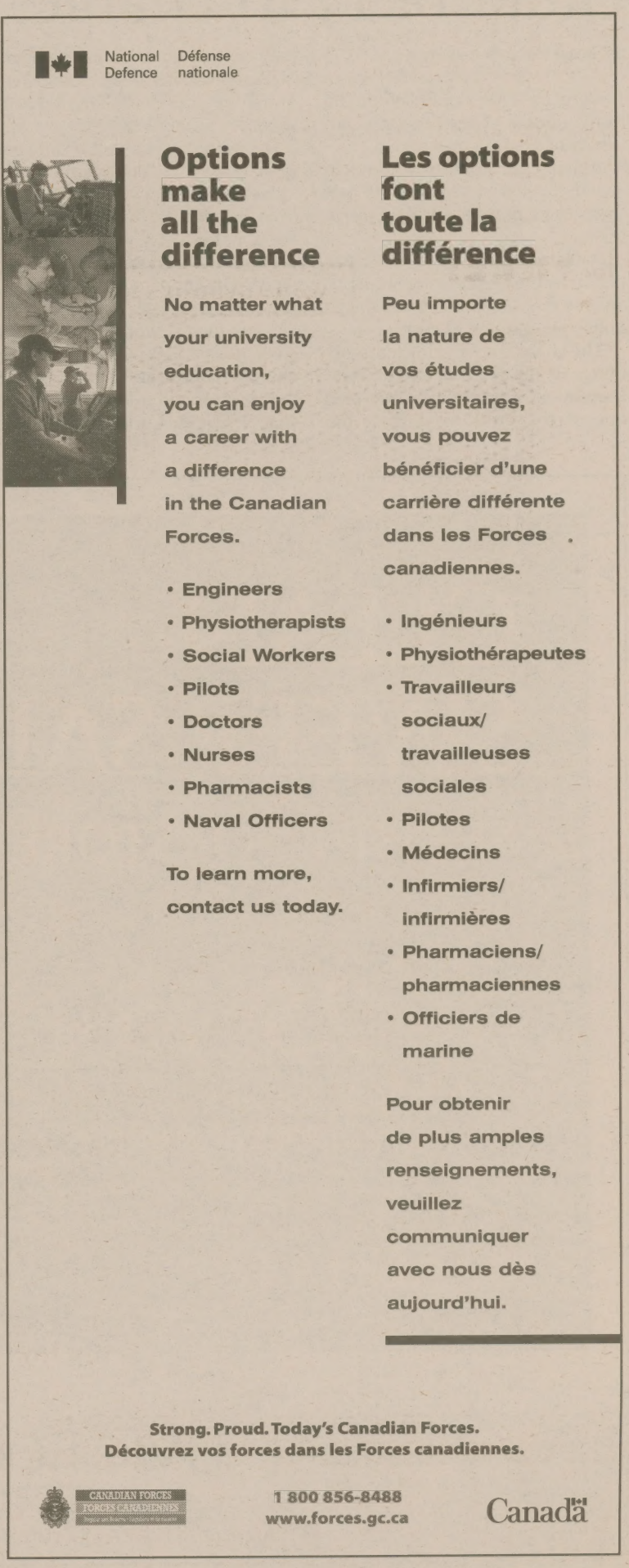
Since date-rape drugs are depressants, Freeman says that anyone who appears very drunk in relation to how much they've had to drink could potentially be drugged.

Although AVP is politically non-partisan, Freeman says the group "definitely supports raising awareness about date-rape drugs."

And that, says Moore, is what the campaign is all about.

"There's nothing wrong with telling somebody for the thousandth time that they should wear a seat belt," he said. "There's nothing wrong that they should protect themselves from date-rape drugs."

The petitions will be set up outside the SUB general office.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AARON MCMILLAN PHOTOS

Engineering students are taking pleasure in hitting people with pies this week for charity. If you see them approaching, don't fret—you can buy your way out of a mess.

Order of Pi to charge, hit students with tasty pies

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Beware: the Order of Pi is bringing its own brand of justice to the University of Victoria this week.

Students and guilty parties could get their just desserts—and see themselves punished with a pie in the face.

It's all part of an annual fundraiser put on by the Engineering Students' Society (ESS), which has organized public pie-ings for 12 years.

"The charges are mainly for goofy things or inside jokes," said Grand Inquisitor Craig Church. "We pied one of the profs for buying too many cheap tools from Canadian Tire, and [CHTV personality] Gordon Tupper for being 'too fit due to excessive weight loss.'"

The event raises about $3,000 per year for two Victoria charities: the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health and the Mustard Seed Food Bank. This year, organizers are hoping for a total of $5,000.

Save-On-Foods donates the pies, which are invariably vanilla cremes.

Here's how it works: the accuser gives at least $10, as well as the accused's name, the charge against that person and a location for the trial. When the Order of Pi appears to read the charges, it's with the full executioner get-up: robes, cloaks and a hood.

The accused can plead guilty and be pied or can plead innocent and increase the donation against them by at least $5.

"Some people are cheap and don't pay, and some will pay extra to target someone else," said Church.

"If the accused freaks out, we just keep the donation and don't pie them," he added. "If anyone is extremely against being pied, we don't do it. Accusers are asked to ensure that the accused is of good humour."

The pies aren't just aimed at UVic students and faculty—requests may come from corporations or different schools. Even when confronted with a pie, Church said executives tend to take it in stride.

"Usually what happens is it bounces up the management chain," said Church. One boss will pay to have their boss pied, who will in turn have the next boss pied. There are few objections, he said. "Pretty much everyone treats it the same way—it's a well-choreographed trial."

The occasional person runs, but it's usually a friend of the Order of Pi who is looking for a good chase and trying to make things difficult.

The Order was started by the ESS in 1994, and it runs concurrently with an event at the University of Saskatchewan. The only difference, according the Church, is the level of sophistication.

"They're not anywhere near as elaborate as we are," Church said. "We have outfits and robes—most of them are still wandering around in jeans."

Pie-ings will take place until Friday, March 11.

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McPherson library expansion announced

William C. Mearns Centre for Learning to include more computers, Internet café

by Bryna Hallam

With $15 million now added to the money from the BC Liberals, the McPherson Library will be expanding.

The new William C. Mearns Centre for Learning will encompass the existing McPherson Library and will include new classrooms, more computers and an Internet café.

"The learning centre is the modern incarnation of the traditional library," said UVic President David Turpin, "re-branded . . . to reflect the new, highly technological and highly interactive function that a library serves."

Turpin emphasized that the learning centre will benefit all students. "Students and faculty from every academic discipline will benefit from the centre's expanded and improved collection and study space," he said. "[The learning centre] will support our humanists, our scientists, our social scientists and our scholars in engineering and other professions. It will support the work of tens of thousands of students every year."

Other planned components of the centre include improved resources for students with disabilities, special study areas for graduate students and faculty, and a 24-hour study area.

"The new facility will comprise so much more than rows of books on shelves," said Advanced Education Minister Ida Chong. "It will foster learning here at the centre and will also connect to information sources around the world."

Chelsea Garside, a graduate student of geography who also works at the library, believes the expansion will benefit students. "Renovations that have taken place already on the main floor have made an incredible difference to the atmosphere," she said, which will result in "an increased number of students using the study area."

Garside also noted that space in the library is "at a premium" and welcomed the addition of more study spaces and work areas.

"This is a very, very exciting day for me," said librarian Marnie Swanson. "We've been working towards this for many years."

Now that the fundraising is complete, Swanson said they will have to go back to the drawing board to determine the final vision and composition of the centre.

The expected date of completion for the centre is not known yet, said Patty Pitts from UVic Communications, but she expects there will be a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony in the fall.

The $20 million project includes donations of $5 million each from the Mearns family, the provincial government and the university. An additional $5 million came from other donors.

William C. Mearns and his family have a long history connected to UVic. William Mearns was a student at the university's precursor, Victoria College. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the land the university occupies and spearheaded a fundraising drive to purchase the property.

"He saw a great university on a grand campus," Craig Mearns said of his father. "The new learning centre would complete the vision."

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Plans for an expanded McPherson Library drew political clout such as the provincial minister for advanced education, Ida Chong (far right) and UVic President, David Turpin (near left).

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Lewis warns of global shift to the individual

Canadians must stand up for what they are for, not against, says filmmaker

by Caitlin Crawshaw
***The Gateway* (University of Alberta)**

EDMONTON (CUP) — "It's always a pleasure for me to stand in front of a sea of smiling faces in one of Canada's most progressive communities," joked Avi Lewis to a roaring Edmonton crowd on March 8.

The director of *The Take* and former host of CBC's *CounterSpin* spoke at the University of Alberta for the student union's Revolutionary Speakers Series, delivering a talk entitled "We Know What You're Against, But What Are You For?"

"Here you are at the heart of the most vicious right-wing politics in Canada, and whenever I am here, I inevitably find a spirit of constructive rage and an articulate resistance," Lewis said, referring to the Conservative government of Alberta premier, Ralph Klein.

"For me, [this] is a metaphor for a kick in my activist butt to be reminded that the most embattled lefties in the land have the most battle in them."

For Lewis, there are a lot of things to be against. He cited the rise of neo-conservative politics in Canada as a trend worth fighting against. The pinnacle of this political and economic shift, he noted, was then-finance minister Paul Martin's 1995 budget, which cut federal money to the provinces but placed fewer restrictions on the funds. As a result, the federal government has yielded a surplus each year, while the provinces experience deficits. These conditions, said Lewis, have stimulated more conservative economic and political policies across the provinces.

"I believe [the 1995 budget] was the most profound achievement for the far right that the country has ever had," remarked Lewis.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Director Avi Lewis ponders politics in Canada and Argentina.

As a result of this structure, provincial governments like Alberta's have scaled back the public sector, arguing that funding is lacking. This contributes, for instance, to less government funding of universities.

However, the trend in Canada towards a smaller public sphere and greater individual responsibility to care for oneself is a global phenomenon, in Lewis's view.

"What is at work in our country and what is at work on our planet is a logic, a rigid orthodoxy that says there is only one recipe, only one way to run an economy," he said.

In Argentina, severe free market policies led to complete economic collapse at the beginning of the millennium. Thousands of factories were closed, and much of the country's wealth left suddenly with the rich citizens who became aware of the impending economic downturn and fled Argentina. Many Argentines were left unemployed, and struggled to find ways to support themselves.

However, in response to the economic collapse, Argentines began to create employment and regain political power. People began talking about politics in the streets, and new social movements began.

One of these movements was a countrywide reopening of closed factories. Workers, tired of being unemployed, broke into hundreds of factories and simply started them up again. Lewis's film, *The Take*, chronicles the movement.

The factory movement in Argentina "has taught me a lot of valuable lessons about a kind of activism that is impatient and effective and democratic," said Lewis.

He added that the job of Canadian activists is to adapt strategies like those taken in Argentina to suit circumstances here.

Lewis also stressed that while Argentina's economic collapse was extreme and sudden, the country's economic practices were not unlike those in Canada.

For that reason, Canadians need to start fighting conservative trends. Rather than simply arguing what they are against, Lewis said, citizens need to stand up and decide what they are for.

"Argentina was turbo-capitalism with no breaks, at hyper-speed," said Lewis.

"I'm not going to say that [Canada has] got there yet, but the bare bones of the economic recipe are the same, and the results could be dangerously similar, one day."

Muslim group demands prayer space at McGill

The non-secular university maintains it has no responsibility to offer permanent prayer space to specific groups

by Erika Meere
***The McGill Daily* (McGill University)**

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — A dispute over prayer space for Muslims at McGill University could result in a complaint to the Québec Human Rights Commission.

Last fall, the Muslim Students' Association learned it was to be evicted from the Peterson Hall basement room that has served as its prayer space since 2002. According to the university, the space had only been intended for temporary use.

The student group demanded the university continue to provide them with prayer space on campus. In a letter to the senate March 1, the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim rights group, threatened to file a human rights complaint on behalf of the MSA.

After a flurry of letters between senior administrators and the student group, attempts to resolve the dispute have stalled.

The university had set up a working group comprising administrators and students, including three members of the MSA, to discuss the matter, but the MSA said it would not negotiate without the presence of its advocate.

For this reason, MSA representatives did not attend the first meeting on the grounds the university refused to allow the Council to participate in the negotiations.

"We need [the Council] to even the playing field between the two parties," said MSA spokesperson Sarah Elgazzar, adding the group would also provide the needed legal expertise.

Elgazzar explained Islam requires adherents to pray five times a day for five minutes at intervals of roughly two to three hours. Muslim members of the McGill community number nearly 3,000, Elgazzar said, therefore they need a quiet space on or very close to campus in which to pray.

"We don't really think the administration recognizes how crucial this space is to the well-being of Muslims on campus," said Elgazzar.

Riad Saloojee, executive director of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, said the legal grounds for a human rights complaint lie in both provincial and federal human rights legislations, which affirm service providers,—such as businesses and academic institutions—have an obligation to accommodate religious needs, up to the point of undue hardship.

"If McGill is adamant in denying its Muslim students an on-campus location for daily prayers, the MSA has authorized us to file a complaint with the Québec Human Rights Commission and publicize the complaint in Canada and internationally," Saloojee said.

But McGill has maintained, as a non-denominational university, it has no responsibility to provide permanent prayer space to any specific religious group.

"The university provides only a secular space that can be used by any student of any religion," said principal Heather Munroe-Blum in a letter to senators dated Feb. 23, referring to the Birks Building chapel.

Elgazzar, however, said the Birks chapel cannot properly accommodate Muslim students, who need an open space in which they can kneel down.

"They'd have to take out the pews," she said, explaining the MSA would accept a secular space, such as an interfaith prayer room with enough space for the Muslim style of prayer.

Vice-provost Anthony Masi hesitated to endorse this solution out of concern it would mean providing a permanent religious space other than the Birks chapel.

"We are reluctant to provide anything that could become a non-secular space," he said.

Masi emphasized the administration is looking at other options to help Muslim students off campus, and he urged the MSA to participate in the discussion so he and other administrators can learn about their particular needs.

While several other Canadian universities, including UVic and UBC, offer on-campus interfaith prayer spaces, this is not the first dispute over Muslim prayer space at a Canadian post-secondary institution. The Council has intervened in several similar instances in recent years, in most cases successfully resolving the issue.

Another case, in which Montréal's École de technologie supérieure declined to grant prayer space to its Muslim students, is currently facing the human rights commission.

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Pending strike set to paralyze Malaspina

School asks province for new mandate to address union's demands

by Matt O'Halloran
The Navigator (Malaspina University-College)

NANAIMO, B.C. (CUP) — It wasn't good news for students when people began leaving the Malaspina University-College boardroom shortly after 11 a.m., March 3. A seven-month contract dispute between the faculty union and the administration had come down to a final meeting, and it was over in little more than an hour.

Malaspina president Richard Johnston said his bargaining team had been "caught between a rock and a hard place," as the school had not received a new mandate from the provincial government to address costs, such as wage increases, in the faculty's contract demands.

Faculty members voted 71 per cent in favour of job action March 2. There was little administrators could do at the meeting but wait for verbal strike notice from Malaspina Faculty Association president Jamie Brennan, which came quickly.

"It is unreasonable to presume that the MFA wait until some unspecified future date to determine what gains, if any, it can obtain for its members," said Brennan.

The rest of the session was spent sorting out the essential services to be kept in place, such as day care, and plant and animal feeding in science labs, during the likely event of a faculty strike.

The faculty union, which represents 506 non-trades instructors and faculty, officially gave 72-hour strike notice March 4, promising not to strike until after March 7, when more than 300 student bursaries were awarded.

Faculty bargaining chief Dominique Roelants said the union needed to use the leverage of a strike late in the spring semester, rather than face a possible lockout by management during the summer session, if the bargaining impasse were to continue.

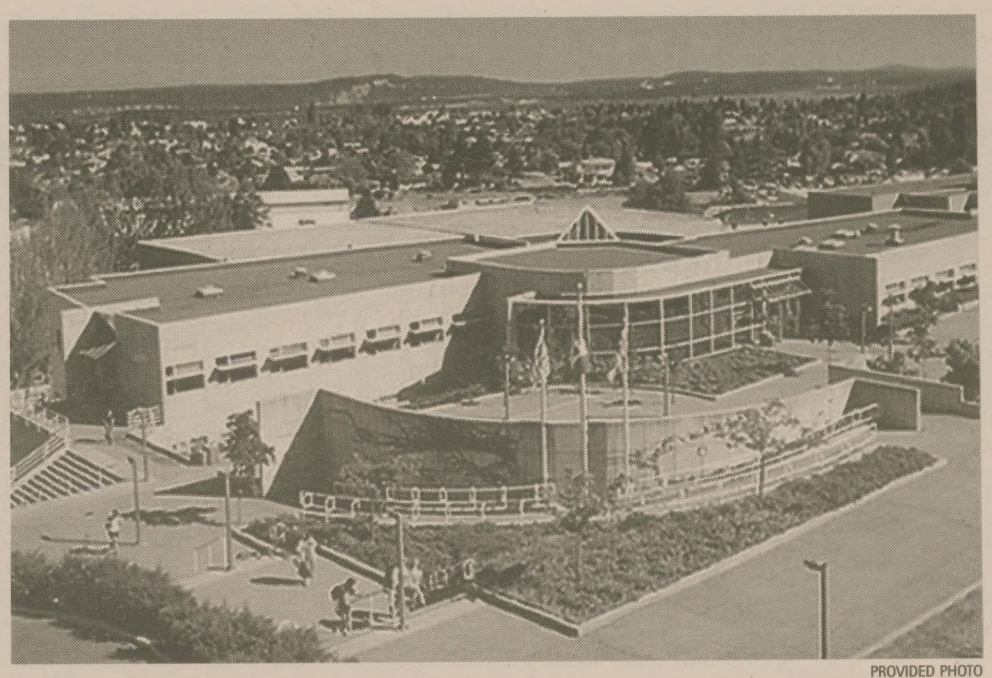
With more than 7,800 Malaspina students to be affected by a potential strike, students were asking their instructors whether the semester would be lost.

"I'm in a pretty intense program, and time is such a factor," said culinary arts student Alexander Amos. "If I miss more than three weeks, I have to stay another seven weeks to finish."

Support among students for job action was mixed.

"I can kinda see where they're coming from, but I just want to get this semester done," said anthropology student Graeme Barnes. "I have field school in May, and if the strike happens we may not go."

Malaspina's two other unions, B.C. Government and Services Employees' Union (BCGEU) local 702 and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 1858, said they would support a faculty strike and would not cross picket lines, meaning campuses would be largely shut down with no formal instruction offered if pickets went up. BCGEU represents 172 trades instructors, while CUPE represents 272 support staff.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Malaspina's student union blames the B.C. Liberals for the bargaining impasse.

BCGEU members will also begin collective bargaining with the administration in mid-March.

"We're up next," said Malaspina BCGEU president Stu Seifert. "We'll be bringing our agreement to them and saying, 'Sign here.'"

But many students said they would consider crossing picket lines to access campus facilities.

"Most of our stuff can be done in the field, but if I have to come to school to get something I'll probably do it," said forestry resource technology student Bill McLean. "I wouldn't tell my teacher because it would probably get them in trouble."

Johnston said Malaspina's administration staff of 130 would be expected to show up for work as usual.

The president was apologetic to students while trying to work out a new settlement mandate with officials in various provincial ministries.

"I'm very sorry it's come to this," said Johnston. "It used to be the board was responsible for everything and was very autonomous. It's very difficult to bargain when you don't hold all the cards and the ultimate card of a wage increase is held by the government."

The province has mandated Malaspina University-College and other public post-secondary institutions to enforce a three-year wage freeze during negotiations with unionized employees.

The responsibility for updating the mandate falls to the province's Public Sector Employers' Council. It includes several Liberal cabinet ministers, one member of the legislative assembly and the heads of seven public sector employers' groups controlled by PSEC.

The Malaspina student union blamed the B.C. Liberal government for the bargaining impasse.

"The B.C. government's negotiating mandate of preventing any wage or benefit increases is a faulty policy which, by design, increases the chances of job actions by public employees across the province," said student union executive director Steve Beasley.

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6) Financial Report and Approval of 2005-06 Budget *
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Editorial

Grow ops not the issue

Four young Mounties were killed last Thursday after Jim Roszko, a man being investigated for a shed stocked with stolen auto parts and marijuana plants, ambushed and shot them.

Unfortunately, the mainstream media decided right away to frame the tragedy as a marijuana issue. The government barked about greater penalties for those involved with grow ops, reconsidering decriminalization of the drug and the link between casual smoking and organized crime. Pot activists responded by saying legalization would prevent altercations between police and growers.

Journalists lapped it up and, in echoing the government line, failed in their responsibility to report critically.

The grow op angle was nothing more than a red herring. Were there no marijuana, the incident would likely have unfolded the same—the police originally went to the home to aid in the repossession of a truck, and the discovery of stolen car parts and marijuana plants aided in getting a search warrant. After the officers were killed, the Edmonton auto parts unit was the first on the scene. As one columnist pointed out, if the state is going to increase the penalties for growing marijuana now, we should increase the penalties for car theft too.

There are two real stories here, and neither has anything to do with pot.

The first is the failings of the justice system to contain a criminal—a violent, cop-hating, harassing, gun-happy pedophile—known and feared in his community. Roszko reportedly shot at people to keep them from crossing on to his property, stalked police officers and sexually abused boys. RCMP officers said he even terrified the police in Mayerthorpe. The man, who was prohibited from owning firearms, was known to have a collection of unregistered guns (remember Alberta's fierce opposition to the federal gun registry). He was given kid-glove treatment in the community—the police and the public just stayed away.

The second story is that of dangerous people with severe mental issues who seclude themselves as society turns a blind eye. Roszko was mostly avoided or accommodated in the town of 1,600—this event should have launched an investigation into mental health funding and operations in Canada.

It took four days for discussion on these two issues to surface. On Friday, RCMP commissioner Guiliano Zaccardelli called grow ops a "plague on our society." On Monday, he recanted, calling his response linking the murders to marijuana "inappropriate." Zaccardelli said that he knew "full well that at that time [he] didn't have all the information." Because of this knee-jerk reaction, newspapers from New York to Sydney, Australia, led their coverage with the marijuana angle. The RCMP admits this was a mistake, and now real reporting is starting to come to light.

In no way are we advocating for grow ops. The fact is that the anti-grow op legislation being advocated by the federal government has absolutely nothing to do with this case.

Tougher penalties for grow ops—like a minimum sentence of four years—will only deter so-called "mom and pop" growers, moving the demand for the drug to organized crime groups with the resources and motivation to defend their crops. A four-year sentence for growers will increase the risk to police and do little to stem violence.

In fact, the head of the Vancouver police unit said on the weekend that police don't face many armed people or booby traps during raids on grow ops. "We have encountered a few knives inside. I can think of only one or two reports of firearms, and those were hidden away, and we found those in searches," he told the CBC.

Journalism should be looking at how Canada's mental health care system failed to help or treat Roszko and at what went wrong in the judicial system. Marijuana is not the issue here.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

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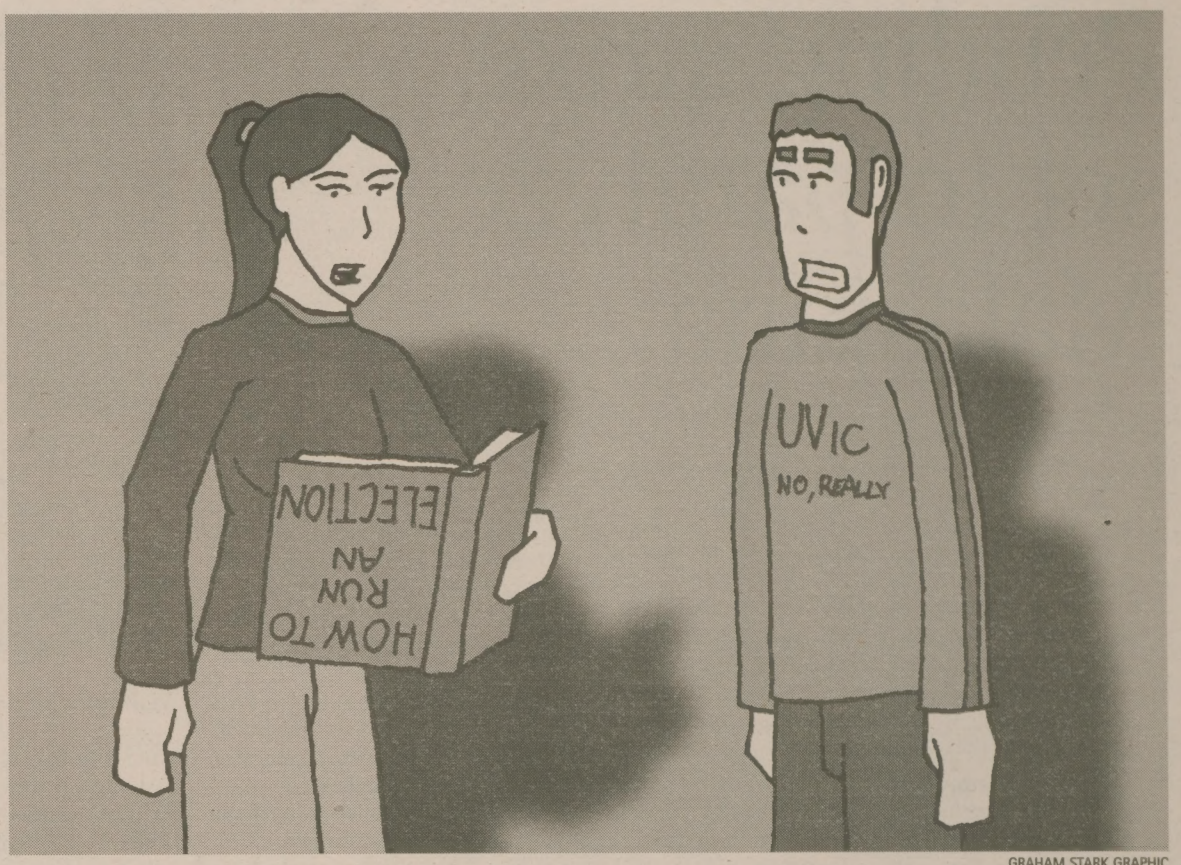

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Wait a moment, we've been holding the book upside-down this whole time!"

LETTERS

Law school needs idealists

Scott McCall, in his March 3 article that was directed at students considering a law degree, paraphrases local lawyer Troy DeSouza's caution: if you've got high-minded ideals of changing the world, of forcing out more or different justice than what the "norm" now lawfully provides, then think again. Being a lawyer means putting aside all those radical leanings, getting a haircut and a smooth-talking suit.

Well, he's right, at least if we go by the article's assumption that attorneys are fundamentally in the private interest business. As things stand, conservative capitalists probably dominate the legal community. But instead of allowing this unfortunate reality to dictate who ought to go to law school, we should be cracking open legal education in the very opposite direction.

Some of my best and most inspiring friends at this school are passionate progress-hungry activists who are intent on re-tooling the law to achieve true social change. Sure, it sucks to face a daunting profession that cares more about dusty rules and rituals than creating a truly anti-oppressive legal culture, but it would suck even more if there weren't law students determined to take on the challenge.

So, dear idealists, if you dare you're wanted, welcome and most desperately needed in this slow but essential re-visioning of our law.

Simon Owen

Candidate affiliations not newsworthy

Re: "Students worried about CIS, Liberal connection" (Mar. 3, *the Martlet*).

Is this what qualifies as journalism these days? I knew student newspapers like *the Martlet* were notoriously left wing, but give me a break. Friends of candidates in an election are—gasp—putting up posters? And some of these friends have committed the unforgivable crime of supporting the BC Liberals? Stop the presses. I eagerly await *the Martlet*'s next expose on NDP supporters who happen to be campaigning for candidates on Putting Students First.

Joel McLaughlin

Does nothing important matter anymore?

What would get UVic students to come out and vote? Lulu Lemon raising its prices by 200 per cent? Booze being outlawed on campus? Parking lots being turned into nature sanctuaries? All classes starting at 6 a.m.? Well it sure ain't providing ACCESS UVic with 50 cents more out of our pockets, just so they can hire a resource co-ordinator! Five hundred students, or 20 per cent of those who actually voted in the referendum, think 50 cents is too much! Furthermore, 87 per cent of UVic students who couldn't spare the time to vote probably don't even give a shit about students with a disability.

I am appalled at the pathetic apathy that students here show for causes vital to all of us. Screw cheap pizza! Screw more parking lots! It's time for us to shout about shit that really matters, and it's time to make our voices heard. If you didn't vote, ask yourself "Why?" Are you so comfortable in your privileged space that nothing else matters? It's time to wake up and walk out before it's too late! Kudos to those who got off their asses and voted (not the 500 who think 50 cents is too pricey).

Jonny Morris

Abortion is a woman's right

Paul Cortens, in his letter to the editor, "Choice Article Correction," (Mar. 3, *the Martlet*) claims that I was wrong when I said that the Canadian Constitution enshrines a woman's right to control her body, which includes the right to an abortion. Hey Paul, how about looking up the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on this from 1988. Chief Justice Brian Dickson found that a law regulating abortion violated section seven of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (that's from the Constitution Act of 1982). The quote that you provided is from the Criminal Code, Section VIII, #287, "OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON AND REPUTATION," and is a subsection of a law regarding violence. That quote is part 4b of the section and is explicitly stated as an illustration of how parts one and two cannot be interpreted. That's what the words "subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to" mean. This is not a law on abortion.

The students' society's policy opposing any new law on abortion is in line with the most recent decision on the issue by the highest authority in the county.

Abortion need not be legalized; it's already a women's right.

Erik Haensel

Martin's marriage melting pot

Paul Martin just can't seem to grasp that a word rewrite can have an enormous negative impact by excluding people that will not identify with his marriage melting pot definition. For marriage, Canadians are not bullied by the smears from Paul Martin or gay thumpers: The Nordic Research Group found in a recent telephone survey that 59.8 per cent of Canadians support keeping the traditional definition of marriage.

Looking up Leviticus 20 v.13 on the Internet is an eye opener. A few news story churches are taking pointers from Martin and trying for a Bible rewrite. Not only is the marriage rewrite diametrically irreconcilable to religion, but religious or not, it is irreconcilable to what nearly 60 per cent of Canadians are willing to accept as the definition of marriage.

Contrary to the "thumper" mentality, the 18,000,000 Canadians that disagree with the rewrite are entitled to have their different values maintained and don't deserve to be marginalized as rednecks waving "anti-gay," "close-minded" and "shameful" banners. Provide another description or take marriage out of legislation and simply state "union." Preserve the current marriage identity and diversity by allowing separate identities to be equal but different.

Shiela Wilson

With abortion, the personal is political

Robin Tosczak wrote a letter to the editor regarding the abortion issue last week that said, "We need to actively engage in discussion around important issues, so that when decisions must be made, be they personal or political, we are informed and prepared." I would like to add to her letter by saying that the personal is political. The topics of women's personal rights to safe, legal and accessible abortion in Canada—and females having control over their own decisions, bodies and (possible) family sizes—are central to female reproductive health rights and are in constant threat of erosion. Thus, I see the importance of having active discussions on abortion. Like Tosczak, I do not agree with silencing people who are trying to formulate their opinions. I do think that the microphone needs to be pulled when such opinions—demanding "respect" for having "different beliefs"—reinforce hegemonic discourses and actions, such as hate, female control, racism, homophobia, ableism, transphobia and ageism, which further silence those on the margins of society.

Danielle Edwards

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Recycling no quick fix

Reuse, reduce, maybe even incinerate, but question energy-consuming recycling

by David Crow

It's always nice to think you're doing your part for the environment by dropping your plastic bottles in the correct receptacle on campus. You may even feel extra ambitious if you carefully separate your metal cans from your empty glass jars at home. But really, it's just a Band-Aid on a broken leg. Everything we recycle must be collected by gas-guzzling trucks, driven to collection facilities and then rendered into usable form. And all of this takes energy.

In fact, it uses more energy than simply burning it, as five Swedish waste management experts have declared in a reversal of traditional wisdom. Of course, this statement horrified many of their fellow environmentalists, including Greenpeace, but they are not alone in their controversial stance.

"For years recycling has been held up as the best way to deal with waste," a British council official agreed. "It's time that myth was exploded." The Swedes say that recycling is particularly wasteful in remote communities, where large amounts of gasoline are needed to transport the recyclables to a collection depot. The report goes further to state that improvements in technology have not only made the incineration process cleaner but that the process could also be used to generate electricity.

This is the situation in Victoria: our metal, mixed glass and plastic containers are shipped to a facility in Surrey to be sorted. From there, plastic goes to Merlin Plastic in Vancouver, metal primarily to scrap dealers around the Lower Mainland and glass either to road aggregate or to the Oregon-based Corning company to be fashioned into fibreglass. Paper, traditionally the easiest to deal with, is simply fed into the back end of pulp mills scattered across the Pacific Northwest. But it still has to get there first.

Obviously, recycling does have its benefits. It reduces the amount of waste going into landfill and cuts back on the extraction of limited resources from the earth (and in the case of metal, reduces the number of open-pit sores on our landscape). Also, for some materials, it is undoubtedly more energy efficient to recycle rather than to create a new material. Recycled aluminum from rotary furnaces, for example, uses 95 per cent less energy than primary production. But we must always keep in mind that recycling also has its drawbacks and is not the universal remedy that some might assume. A far better option is to concentrate on the other two Rs: Reduce and Reuse.

Why Canada said 'no' to BMD

Canadians should be given credit for BMD decision

by Tim Boultbee

Both Prime Minister Paul Martin and Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew said that Canada would not support the U.S. ballistic missile defence (BMD) plan because "Canada must act in its own interests." What Martin and Pettigrew did not say, however, was that they had to say "no" because a majority of Canadians—52 per cent, according to a poll conducted last November by the Centre for Research and Information on Canada—did not support George Bush's pet project. Opposition, the poll said, was strongest in Quebec, the province that defeated more than a dozen Liberal candidates in last June's federal election.

But the media has largely ignored the significant role Canadians played in the government's decision. Instead, most of Canada's scribes have focused on how Canada dithered over its decision, how Canada will defend itself and how the U.S. has reacted. The media has denied the public voice—a voice strong enough to change politicians' minds. How else can Martin's reversal be explained? After all, he did say that Canada should sit at the table with the Americans before last year's election, and Defence Minister Bill Graham told the *Ottawa Citizen* last summer that it was in Canada's interest to participate in BMD.

If getting closer to the American administration was Martin's highest priority, he would have said "yes" to BMD. Instead, given his minority government, he had to listen to the Canadian public who elect, and defeat, governments at the ballot box.

The media has not only denied the public credit for the decision but has also failed to examine why people in this country said "no." Instead, it tells us about the values that Canada and the U.S. share, and how friendly we are. Many of these points ring true to an extent, but many Canadians are feeling somewhat exasperated with our southern neighbour these days. After all, this is the neighbour that has flat out refused to accept a World Trade Organization ruling against American duty on Canadian softwood and that stretched the danger of Iraq and Saddam Hussein to justify an illegal invasion of a sovereign nation. They have also withdrawn support for the Kyoto Accord and refused to sign the ban on landmines.

All tallied, Canadians may be feeling slightly hostile toward the Bush administration. And if Canadians are feeling this way, is it possible that our feelings would be reflected in polls regarding BMD?

Despite his interest in being at the table with the Americans and the pressure from Bush, Martin had to bow to a force more powerful: the Canadian public. The fact that the Canadian public has the clout to alter the course of its government deserves recognition from our media. Not only should the media examine why Canada said "no" but so too should the U.S.

The U.S. ambassador Paul Cellucci who said that he was "perplexed" by Canada's decision was probably expecting a different answer from Canada given the signs shown by Martin and Graham. But Cellucci needs to recognize that Canada is a sovereign and democratic country. And it is democracy, is it not, that the U.S. wants to bring to countries like Iraq?

The sound of change: silence

Paper use at UVic affects the rainforest, but things are looking up

by Erik Haensel

Do you think that UVic students have nothing to do with the incredible destruction of Indonesian rainforests, a destruction occurring at the pace of six soccer fields per minute? Well, UVic students are responsible for the chainsaws, the trucks, and the turbulent confrontations and brutal oppression of the region's indigenous population. It's easy not to notice since the stench of oil, carbon monoxide and sweat is so far away.

Paper flutters through photocopiers on this side of the world, so soundless and scentless that it's almost unnoticeable. The experience of using Starbrite paper is the antithesis of producing it.

Used in most of Zap's photocopiers, Starbrite is the cheapest paper that can be purchased through Unisource, the students' society's paper provider. But cheapness doesn't come without a price, and in this case, the price is as steep as it is far away.

At the last students' society meeting, the board of directors voted unanimously in favour of switching all its white letter-size paper to 100 per cent post-consumer waste product by May 1. This decision was made on your behalf.

Interestingly, this decision gets seen as an act of democracy, an intervention into everyday operations voted on by elected representatives. Yet, the very fact that we decided to stop using Starbrite implies that previously we had chosen to use it. We stopped supporting this particular case of oppression, but when did we decide to start it?

In truth, we outsource our decisions. We get a company called Unisource to supply our paper, and Unisource searches for the cheapest paper possible. This is obtained from their suppliers, the Asian Pulp and Paper Company. Unisource markets it, everyone wants it, and there is a huge demand. So, Asian Pulp and Paper cuts more trees, takes over the Indonesian rainforest, oppresses any opposition and makes increasing amounts of paper.

We don't notice. We continue to live our sheltered lives.

Every time you use the cheapest paper in Zap, only nine cents per copy, a decision is made on your behalf.

You vote through the market; money is your ballot. The more money you spend, the more impact you have. Hitting the nine-cent copier, instead of the 10-cent one loaded with 100 per cent post-consumer Eureka paper, fires off a chain reaction of events, the end result of which includes violence, massive deforestation and the continued destruction of endangered species habitat.

In this world, democratic decisions happen as sporadic interventions into an ever-changing landscape where the spending of money dictates what happens. It is simple mathematics to understand why the world reflects the vision of those who are most wealthy and that the gap between rich and poor is growing: how could it shrink under such a system?

It also only takes simple mathematics to understand why students in a wealthy country seem so accepting of and oblivious to their support for the torment of other people and the destruction of the rainforest.

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Breaking boundaries

story by Heather Bowness
photos by Ashley Akins & Aaron McMillan

Ever since Eve allegedly took the first bite of the apple, women in many cultures have been struggling for recognition and equality. In a predominantly patriarchal world, women have often been viewed as inferior to men, discriminated against and repressed.

On March 8, women around the world celebrated International Women's Day, commemorating women's achievements of the past and present while bringing hope for the future. Each year, this day continues to acknowledge the sacrifices women made to break down the narrow-minded views that enclosed them.

While Western women have now gained respect and recognition in the work force, we must not throw away the progress we've made by resorting to ignorance or apathy. By educating ourselves about the pioneers of women's rights and appreciating their contributions, women everywhere will continue to dissolve the barriers of limitation that still remain and explore new territories for the generations ahead.

HOPE & PROGRESSION

Even with improvements such as "equal work for equal pay," the balance is still not perfect. The average North American woman earns 74 cents for every dollar that the average man earns. However, this number does not factor in the women who choose family and volunteer work over the high pressures of the boardroom. Furthermore, Statistics Canada notes that 83 per cent of minimum-wage workers are women and youths while acknowledging that single female parents are often below the poverty line. Numerous women's rights activists use these statistics to point out the continuing wage gap and discrimination. But no one can deny that women have made huge leaps since the early 1900s.

"I heard a CBC interview where a mosque in Toronto was allowing women to preach," says Heilwig von Koenigsloew, a female musician and violin teacher in the Lower Mainland. "Men from the mosque [looked] to the Koran for any indication that women were not allowed to do so and they couldn't [find any indication]. They concluded it was a cultural restriction."

Thus, the supposed glass ceiling that hinders women's progress is slowly turning into a more permeable, clear, plastic ceiling. The biggest obstacle doesn't seem to be men anymore, but women themselves. But as women have gained confidence in their abilities, they have been able to push through the limiting impositions of gender.

Von Koenigsloew says that self-esteem plays a major role in women's professional choices. "There are billions of dollars that ride on women's insecurities," she says. Referring to the media's superficiality that surrounds women, she continues: "When I watch T.V., I want to scream, 'It's not me!'" She adds that girls are rarely encouraged to be adventurous like boys, remembering that her parents encouraged her to be creative and disassemble engines. "I didn't realize this wasn't normal," she says.

Daniel Beck, co-director of Go Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (Go WEST), acknowledges that, statistically, women rate themselves lower than men do, despite their actual abilities. "Women in general don't have as much confidence," he says. So it's possible that the reason women don't go into male-dominated fields is because they feel unable.

MATRIARCHAL MYTHOLOGY

Almost all cultures around the world have created myths and stories to subject women and make them inferior to men. This worked so well that, for a long time, women even believed it. Beyond the romantic knights in shining armor of the Middle Ages and through the gruelling colonization of the New World, women

The power of women & the myths that surround them

had few rights.

In ancient Athens, women were not allowed to speak in court, hold property or inherit more than small bequests. They were hidden from the world and, as in so many cultures, their role was never to be mentioned.

"For the ancient Greeks, intelligence was characterized as essentially feminine," says Dr. Laurel Bowman, a Greek and Roman Studies professor at UVic. "Men suspected that women were smarter than they needed to be." Bowman elaborates on this idea by pointing out that though the Greek goddesses Athena and Metis were goddesses of wisdom, they were still subordinate to Zeus.

In Greek mythology, a prophecy told Zeus that if Metis gave birth, the result would be a child stronger than himself. In an effort to keep his power, he swallowed Metis and gave birth to the goddess Athena on his own. According to Bowman, this gave a mythical example of the ultimate patriarchal fantasy—a male who was capable of procreating without a woman. In myth, this established Zeus as the omnipotent, patriarchal ruler of the universe.

"Zeus is the ideal divine case," Bowman says. "Mortals can only aspire to his achievement by maintaining as much control over their wives as possible."

Even the mythical Amazon women, a matriarchal society of the fearsome women warriors, cannot be seen as evidence of female power in the ancient world. In every battle the Amazons fought, they lost.

"Their function in Greek storytelling was to lose and to be subordinate to men," Bowman says. "In fact, every story about a strong woman [in Greek mythology] ends with violence to show why women don't have power."

The Spartans, known for their superb warriors and bravery, seem a little more progressive than the other Greek city-states. Since the men were often away at war and lived in barracks, the women managed the family estate and could even inherit significant bequests. But what was most shocking to other Greek city states was that women were encouraged to exercise, and did so—naked. But Bowman says not to see these liberties as feminine rights but rather a practicality. The Spartans realized that healthy women make healthy babies and, thus, healthy warriors for the state.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of North America's first feminists, was a major force in the women's suffrage movement. Her famous phrase "All men—and all women—were created equal" has been used throughout the 20th century by the feminist movement. For example, with the advent of the First World War, while men were away fighting, women were suddenly pushed into "masculine" jobs. When the war ended, they had no intention of giving up their newly earned freedoms. In Canada, after much effort, women gained the federal vote in 1918, and when women were declared "persons" under the law in 1929, women finally began to be recognized as an integral and valuable part of society.

FEARSOME WOMEN WARRIORS

Until the 1960s, only three per cent of lawyers in North America were women. This number has now risen to over 30 per cent. Several studies have shown that women are now leaving their jobs to find more challenging careers. The freedoms and opportunities that women have in Western civilization far surpass any that women 30 years ago could have imagined. Women can now pursue any career path, having pioneered beyond typically feminine jobs. They are now astronauts, chemists, CEOs, graphic designers and journalists.

Donna Shalala, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, spoke in 1998 about a conference on the rights of women, which took place in China. "I saw dignity in Beijing. Thousands of women from all over the world—women of different colours, wearing different clothing, speaking different languages." She concluded: "Different women—but one clear message: The progress of nations depends on the progress of women." This has been proclaimed ever since, cementing the women's movement worldwide.

Cindy L'Hirondelle, a member of Victoria's Status of Women Action Group (SWAG), notes that men are more likely to be hired based on what companies perceive as liabilities. "Women are discriminated against because of lifestyle choices," she says. "Often a company will hire men before women because of maternity leave and so on." She adds that men are not often forced to make the same decisions as women, such as balancing family and career. Despite this, women have been gaining ground in traditionally male professions, and each woman who makes courageous new career inroads shatters the glass ceiling that threatens to limit women's progress.

EDUCATION & CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

In universities across the country, women make up almost 60 per cent of students. UVic has more women enrolled than men, however, most women enrol in the humanities rather than the sciences. At UVic, only 12 per cent of engineering students are women and, when compared to other universities across the country, UVic has the lowest enrolment of women in the engineering disciplines it offers. But this is not due to lack of initiatives.

Beck, Go WEST's co-director, remarks that UVic actually has more initiatives for making women aware of engineering as a career opportunity than other universities. "We hope that if we educate women and make them aware about engineering as a career path, then maybe they'll go into it," he says, adding that Go WEST educates through class presentations and summer camps to promote engineering to females.

"We find that, as early as Grade 3, girls are shying away from the sciences," Beck says. "And no one has a definitive answer [as to] why."

Beck also explains that the engineering disciplines UVic offers have lower female enrolment than other disciplines. "For some reason women are more interested in environmental sciences, chemistry and biology than mechanics," Beck says. At UBC, on the other hand, 35 per cent of students in chemical engineering are female.

Women are slowly making inroads in the sciences, but where you wouldn't expect to see women struggling for recognition is the fine arts. Von Koenigsloew observes that even in her profession, there are gender politics and discrimination.

"Often if you want to get ahead in leadership roles, you have to play the [political] game," she says. "And give up some of your moral values." But many women aren't willing to do that. Instead of trying to change a company from within, they will set up their own businesses and turn to creative solutions. Von Koenigsloew is mainly self-employed, finding the politics of orchestras hard to handle. "I've always told people what I think and that makes me unpopular sometimes," she says. "Society has taught us that it's okay for men to be strong but not women. So instead they hide their strengths and opinions."

Education, confidence and self-respect are the keys to the progress of women everywhere in the world. Governments and businesses are gradually beginning to comprehend and acknowledge that women have a valuable contribution toward society. In the latest federal budget, the Canadian government committed to contribute over $5 billion towards early-learning childcare. But much more is needed, and women must continue to be pro-active in demanding and campaigning for it.

So how do women of the future forge ahead and build on the great progress that women from previous generations have begun? How do we improve on their contribution and sacrifices so that women after us have an easier time? The decisions we make today determine how future generations will fare in the working world as well as in the home.

Western society's recognition of women's rights and their role in society has not yet touched women in other parts of the world, particularly Third World countries. Whereas Western women have made great strides from the days of being uneducated, dependant, constantly pregnant and in the kitchen, many women are still without any rights at all. Women in other parts of the world need our active support to help them gain the freedoms that we casually take for granted. Men cannot decide the future of women—only women can.

Bookcrossing: the underground library

by Sarah Lindstein

Caitlin Armstrong relates the thrill of her first capture. It was in the wilds of the city and required skill and stealth to make off with the prey. Armstrong, a relative novice, had just snared her first book at the Second Cup on the corner of Bank Street and Slater in downtown Ottawa. Her newly captured book featured the marks of a seasoned catch-and-release program, with ID numbers tagging the front and back covers. It was just sitting innocently at the back of the room, near the washrooms, when it was snatched up by the burgeoning book hunter.

"It was just sitting there, and I was so surprised to see that this was true, that the book hadn't been picked up by anyone yet. I mean, if I didn't know about the site, I'd think it was just stealing," she said. Armstrong discovered the location of her prize through a website dedicated to "bookcrossing," an international yet undercover practice of leaving a previously read book in a public place for someone else to pick up and enjoy.

Practised throughout the world, bookcrossing is a phenomenon with soundly economical foundations, as well as being an altruistic exercise for the spirit. People don't want to pay lots of money to enjoy a good book, and really, who reads one book over and over again? bookcrossing helps out those who are tired of what's on their bookshelf and interested in new reading material without having to spend Chapters-style prices.

The website is quick to defend itself against accusations that people will stop buying literature because of the free quotient.

"We can assure you there are far more buyers than finders. This site is not about saving people money. Many of our members, in fact, purchase two copies of every book they like, so they can keep one and release the other into the wild!" Armstrong agrees with the principles of bookcrossing, and she enjoyed her captive book, Jonathan Kellerman's *Flesh and Blood*.

"They have tons of different books, all kinds of genres," says Armstrong. "I'd never buy this one on a whim, but it's cool to see what's around just in case I do like it. Then I'd buy more from that author." So why is it so underground? Well, it's a relatively new pastime, having been founded in 2001, and has yet to fully reach the mainstream consciousness. bookcrossing has enjoyed recent popularity as it was featured on a local radio station in Ottawa and was inducted into the Oxford dictionary as a definition in August 2004.

The primary method of spreading bookcrossing awareness is through word of mouth. That's how I heard about it, and how Armstrong heard about it. It takes time for any trend to reach the masses, and bookcrossing is quietly working away at providing ID numbers, registering bookcrossing members and providing information on where to hunt for books.

Check out www.bookcrossing.com for hot spots in Victoria.

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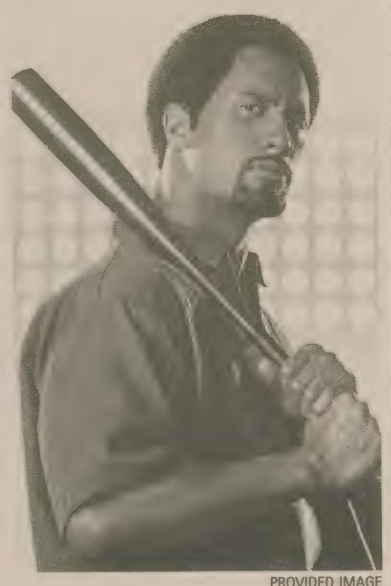
MOVIE REVIEW | BE COOL

A surprisingly funny sequel

by Graham Stark



PROVIDED IMAGE

Rock you like a hurricane.

Be Cool is a movie that has been receiving poor reviews and currently holds a Rotten Tomatoes rating of a very low 30 per cent. People are obviously taking this movie way too seriously.

Be Cool is a quasi-sequel to the 1995 film *Get Shorty*, but only in the sense that some of the same characters are involved—it's an entirely new story. This means you do not have to see *Get Shorty* to enjoy *Be Cool*. And enjoy it you will.

Starring an ensemble of John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Vince Vaughn, Harvey Keitel, Outkast's Andre 3000, The Rock and Cedric the Entertainer, *Be Cool* is a surprisingly funny movie. It's almost worth the cost of admission to see The Rock as a stereotypically gay bodyguard who wants to get into acting and Cedric the Entertainer in a role that makes him not merely tolerable, but likeable.

Travolta plays Chili Palmer, a "reformed" criminal who works in Hollywood, but he becomes disenchanted with movie studio politics and decides to try his hand in the music industry in a job that turns out to be well-suited to someone with his background.

Palmer quickly gets caught up in a many-sided feud between Russian hitmen with an old score to settle, a heavily armed rap group who wants its money, and two record labels fighting over a rising star. The plot jumps around quickly, and time seems somewhat compressed, but it doesn't detract too much from the final product.

Everyone shines for different reasons in the large cast, but the scene-stealers have to be The Rock and Vaughn, as well as Andre 3000, who plays the trigger-happy nephew of the rap producer and kingpin played by Cedric the Entertainer. The actors all play roles that aren't their usual fare, and it's quite refreshing.

Comparing *Be Cool* to its '90s predecessor is nearly pointless. It's very different from *Get Shorty*, and that's fine. It's still a great heist-style flick with a solid cast.

Everyone has different feelings about movies, so go see it for yourself. But just relax and let yourself be entertained, and you'll probably like this movie.

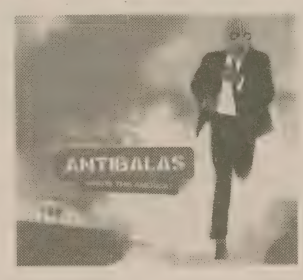
Really, just be cool.

Beats, rock and a minty x-mas

Antibalas
Who is this America?
Ropeadope

by Adam Jones

New York's Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra could have titled this album "Who is this Africa?" because they've set the bar so high within the afrobeat genre that they rival any group from the music's native continent. Afrobeat hasn't had such a solid group since Fela Kuti and the original Tony-Allen-era Africa 70 birthed the genre back in the early '70s. Antibalas follows in Kuti's musical stead with a large ensemble (the core band is 14 members) playing heavy with drums and horns. They've also adopted his progressive political stance.



Unlike many political musicians, Antibalas' primary focus is on the music itself, weaving polyrhythmic African drum styles with traditional R&B and jazz horn arrangements. The feel is upbeat, and although it never reaches a James Brown peak of crazy staccato frenzy, a groove remains that keeps you feeling smooth and loose all day long. With its left-leaning political stance, ultra-tight instrumental stylings and pervasive funkiness, this album is perfect for the UVic student who has OD'ed on Bob Marley and would sooner work for McDonald's than hear "No Woman, No Cry" one more time.

Greg MacPherson
Night Flares
G-7 Welcome Committee

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

It's surprising when one man, with nothing more than an acoustic guitar, can rock out harder than an entire band.

Such is the case with Greg MacPherson, a Maritime-born, Prairies-raised musician with a commanding voice, powerful guitar strumming, and lyrics that straddle the line between personal reflection and societal commentary. Live, he's incredible—audiences stare in awe during acoustic sets. You actually worry that MacPherson might bloody his hands with his exuberant guitar playing.

Think Bruce Springsteen, if Bruce were still young and hip.

Unfortunately, *Night Flares* isn't so hip. The album is strong, but it doesn't measure up to his last, the *Maintenance* EP. Released in early 2004, it was just MacPherson and an acoustic guitar, making it feel raw—heartfelt. *Night Flares* has MacPherson backed by a band, and the album (unfortunately) invites comparison: "Two Haircuts in One" sounds like a Weakerthans song, and a couple others are too much like political-rockers Propagandhi. "Blind Date" and "California" drag the album down, and only a few songs measure up to his last two albums.

It's a decent effort, but MacPherson is stronger and more original on his own.

Various Artists
It's a Team Mint Xmas Vol. 2!
Mint Records

by Adam Jones

Team Mint knows Christmas—it has as many permutations as snowflakes have patterns—so they've delivered a holiday compilation to satisfy during anyone's yuletide.

From John Guliak's family downer "Daddy's Drinking Up Our Christmas" to Atomic 7's instrumental Christmas-at-the-beach number "Senor Santa El Es El Monstruo," Mint satisfies your holiday cravings. If you have one of those families that manages to make the best of the season, you may want to try the candy cane sweet "I Wanna Kiss You This Christmas" or the Evaporators' Santa punk "Who Are You?" Most songs, however, show the underside of that "special time of year," like Young and Sexy's pop number written in children's tears, "Santa Claus Likes Rich Kids Better"—one of the album's most effective tracks.

So if you want all the joy, all the pain, all the tears and all the beers that go along with the holidays, Mint's compilation is by far your best bet.

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***The You and the Now* is Quebec-born Jorane's first English-language album.**
PROVIDED PHOTOS

A woman and her cello

Who: Jorane, opening for Sarah Slean and Jeremy Fisher
When: Monday, March 14 @ 7 p.m.
Where: Central Bar and Grill
Tickets: Available at Lyle's Place, Ditch Records, Central Bar and Grill, and from Ticketweb.com

by Stephanie Bowen

Though she insists that there is little difference between French and English audiences, folk singer and cellist Jorane is only now entering the English-Canadian limelight. Hailed as this side of the border's Tori Amos for her emotive crooning, the 28-year-old performer is at once classical and experimental.

With years of formal training under her belt, her music is poised and complex, yet she is constantly revitalizing it. For instance, her second album, *16mm*, features no lyrics, yet there are vocals—Jorane wails along with her music, manipulating her voice to produce a purely emotional vocal response.

A folk guitarist until the age of 19, the cello seems a rather odd turn for the singer to have taken. When asked why, of all things, she finally picked it up, Jorane responded that, like so many influential choices in our lives, it was made almost by chance. "When entering CEJEP [two years of pre-college mandatory for Quebecois students], I was studying music, and guitar was my focus, but I had to choose a secondary instrument. I'd always been interested in the cello because it was so unique, so I decided to try it," she said.

Following her latest release, the English language album *The You and the Now*, Jorane has toured extensively, a role she takes very seriously. Though she guiltily confessed to a love of both red wine and coffee, she resolved long ago to restrict such vices from her diet while playing shows, to ensure that every performance was high-calibre enough to live up to her own high standards. Jorane is a musician who expects nothing but the best from both music and herself.

This no-nonsense approach has done well by the musician. On Oct. 25 she took home "Contemporary Folk Album of the Year" at the ADISQ awards for Quebec music. Also, *The You and the Now*, produced in 2004, received wide release, which means that unlike her previous recordings, you just might be able to find it at your local record store.

Monday's show at Central Bar and Grill promises a different kind of performance. Jorane will not be accompanied to the Island by her band, and thus will be onstage alone, just a woman and her cello. In the mellow lilt of her French accent, she explained, "Because my songs are of such a personal nature, my shows are very intimate. And because I'll be without my band—I love my band—it will be a very big focus on just me."

With years of formal music training and a fierce determination to succeed, Jorane is ready for the spotlight.

Apartheid novel rich with detail

Frankie and Stankie
By Barbara Trapido
Bloomsbury Publishing

by Stephanie Baker

Barbara Trapido's book *Frankie and Stankie* follows the journey of Dinah de Bondt growing up in Durban, South Africa in the 1950s. Odd as it may seem, the title is an integral part of the novel. Derived from the words of an Italian worker's song misinterpreted by Dinah, the title reflects the childlike atmosphere of the book.

Dinah is living during apartheid when English-speaking people, or at least Europeans, were deemed to be "better" than everyone else. Dinah is brought up in this oppressive time and is taught by society and the education system to be racially prejudiced against others. She could easily classify herself as an anglophile, desperately wanting to be English herself because there is so much emphasis placed on the importance of being English. Never mind the fact that Dinah has a Dutch and German background and that the main population of South Africa consists of Zulus and Indians.

This is Trapido's sixth novel, and it maintains an undercurrent of despair. She isn't afraid to explore the darker side of a life in which students disappear from classrooms because of the colour of their skin and children grow up with racist tendencies.

While told from a child's point of view, the book is eerie and disturbing as the tone stays the same whether it's describing events like the Sharpeville massacre or Dinah's insatiable appetite for clothes. Dinah sees the world with the clarity befitting her age, but her view is skewed and directed by the social rules of the time.

While the book has as an atmosphere thick enough to cut with a Ginsu knife, there is a sense of superficiality. Trapido is originally from South Africa and left around the same time that Dinah did. At times the story feels more like a memoir than a fictional story and begs the question, Why not write an autobiography? If Trapido wanted to write a book about growing up in South Africa, wouldn't it have been easier to write about her own childhood instead of producing a thinly veiled memoir?

Overall *Frankie and Stankie* is a dense read, packed with the objects and attitudes of the era, including racial injustice and Union Jacks planted alongside banana palms. Through the book, Trapido gives readers access to the cultural history that she experienced, rich details and all.

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Geoff Berner a modern-day Falstaff

by Annie Lymburn Meikle

"I'm a lucky God damn Jew, lucky God damn Jew . . . Now I've got my own country / where I'm free to persecute people with less luck than me," scream-sings Geoff Berner above the spastic groans of his accordion. Berner, also known as Canada's own court jester-cum-Vancouver-folk-singing-accordionist, hammered out songs from his newest album, *Whiskey Rabbi*, last Friday night at Logan's pub.

Like his music, Berner's stage presence comes off as a contradiction. He is at once a whiskey addict with a mischievous grin, but dressed in a conservative black blazer and crisp white shirt, he might be your mother's serious uncle. Ultimately, Berner is all about the contradictions, and he uses them to get his politically charged message across. Even the often-light tempo of his klezmer-influenced style causes his tunes to seem playful on the surface—playful until you actually think about what's being said.

The subject matter skips around serious political and social issues before zeroing in on themes of displacement and diaspora. Although Berner's Jewish identity comes across in many of his songs, he is quick to tie links between diasporic and oppressed groups across history: the Roma people, the Jews, the Palestinians and, "if the album works right," Berner says, Canada's Aboriginal people.

JESSICA EATON PHOTO

Geoff Berner, in his own blunt way, attacks prejudice in all its forms with accordion in hand.

The song "Traveller's Curse" delves into the plight of diasporic and displaced people whose "home is in an inconvenient place (right now)." As usual Berner tries to add a little humour to lighten the blow of the message, as he switches gears to sing "You fell out of your mother's cunt / On the correct side of the border / And your cuntfall gives you all of this." Despite the graphic image, the description of the effects of arbitrarily drawn borders is funny and serious.

And funny with a touch of anxious laughter is exactly what Berner is going for. "It's supposed to make you laugh but also make you nervous," Berner admits.

If mixing humour with serious issues such as Palestinian land rights seems a risky venture for a guy raised in a conservative Jewish family, it seems to make Berner a bit nervous. "I'd like to be part of the dialogue," Berner clarifies before describing how he came to include Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwich's poem "Violins" on the album. But as Berner treads into the issue, he carefully chooses his words, saying, "But I believe that there should be a Jewish state in Israel."

Like people on either side of a conflict, the Logan's audience is segregated but equally entranced. Some stand stupefied and whisper excitedly to their Rainier-swigging friends when they pick up on Berner's witty insights. Others lose themselves in the captivating rhythms of the accordion and attempt to polka around the populated dance floor. Either way Berner is a unique act.

As the interview closes, Berner talks excitedly about Belfast and his upcoming tour of Ireland and Norway. "In Belfast there's a sign outside my favourite pub and it has a picture of a bright, friendly rainbow with a slogan underneath that says, in big letters . . ." Berner pauses for effect before exclaiming with a laugh, "Belfast 2002: Still a bit shite."

The sign is symbolic of who Berner and other jesters like him are: funny, somewhat approachable clowns with a message that many don't want to hear—but one that resounds with immense meaning.

Check out Berner's website at geoffberner.com to find out more about his new album.

ARGs merge reality and gaming fantasy

by Ford Walker

Evan Chan is dead. He is somehow related to Bangalore World University. At 4 p.m. tomorrow you must receive an anonymous phone call from a pay phone. No, this isn't a video game dealing with a mafia hit—it's the very first alternative reality game (ARG), *The Beast*.

Internet enthusiasts didn't know what they were getting themselves into three years ago when they googled "Jeanine Salla, sentient machine therapist" after seeing it in a trailer for Steven Spielberg's movie *AI*. They were led to a page full of clues that, once deciphered, led to more web pages. The story revolved around the death of a fictional character (Chan) and his connection to Bangalore World University. A whole culture evolved out of this project, and the detectives worked together to answer the mystery.

An even more successful ARG happened at the end of last year before the hugely popular action game *Halo 2* was released. The trailers for *Halo 2* displayed the URL www.ilovebees.com at the end, and the curious were motivated to explore. What popped up was similar to the opening sequence of *Halo 2*, and computerized phone messages created by the game's programmers forecasted the Covenant's invasion of Earth. *I Love Bees* unfolded in a similar fashion as *The Beast*, but made a major stride with computer involvement. Now, sleuths had to deal with a computer to decipher clues, such as password-protected websites. Also, certain GPS-located payphones would ring, and participants would have to say a series of passwords to find out the new clues. Lastly, there were phone numbers that connected to answering machines where players could leave a fax number for more clues.

So what is so amazing about ARGs?

Well, for starters, there is the fact that people never know whether it is real or not. Both of the originating stories never left a clue that this was the product of devious programmers. This is especially true for *The Beast*—people really were convinced they were solving a murder mystery.

The second reason that ARGs are so amazing is that they break the third wall. People become truly absorbed in the hybrid video game, and it is only through the participation of others that they can succeed. Mad skills alone cannot solve the puzzle, no matter how clever you are. A certain human spirit is instilled into the game. Reality and the gaming world merge.

There are many ARGs currently running, and the best place to find out about them is argn.com, a site devoted to alternative reality.

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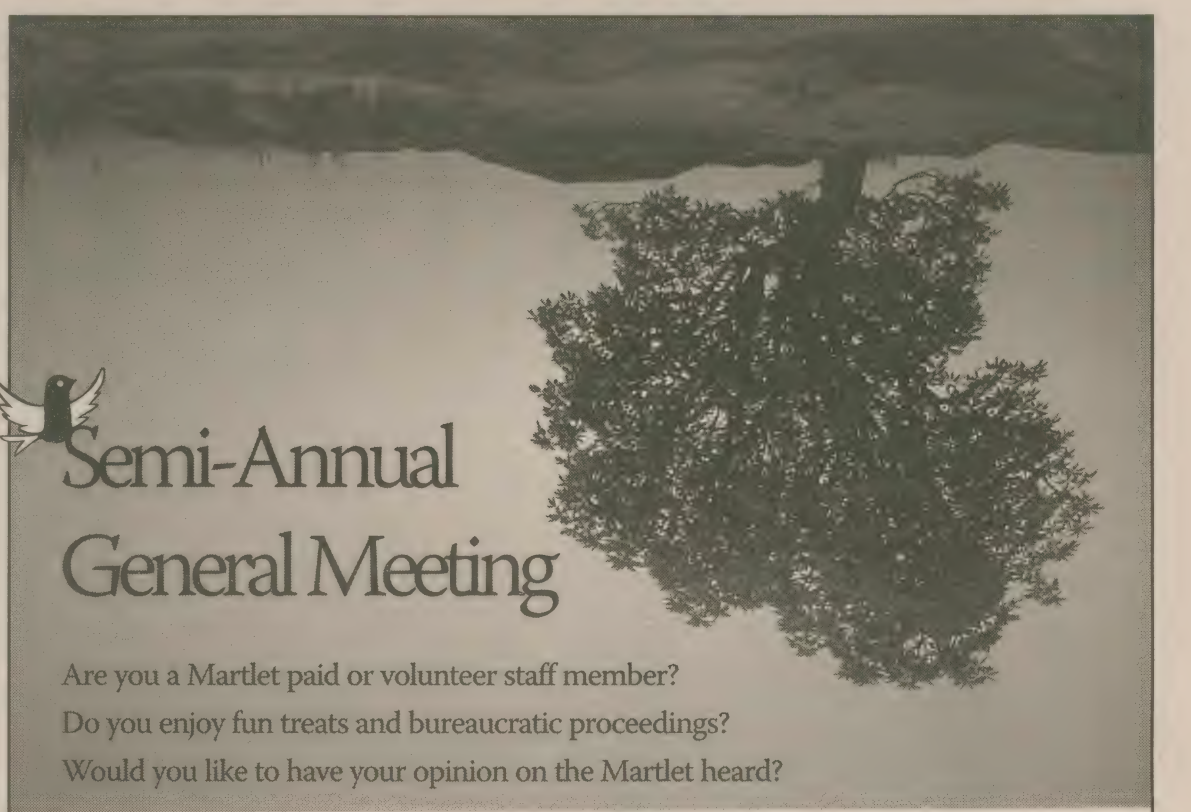

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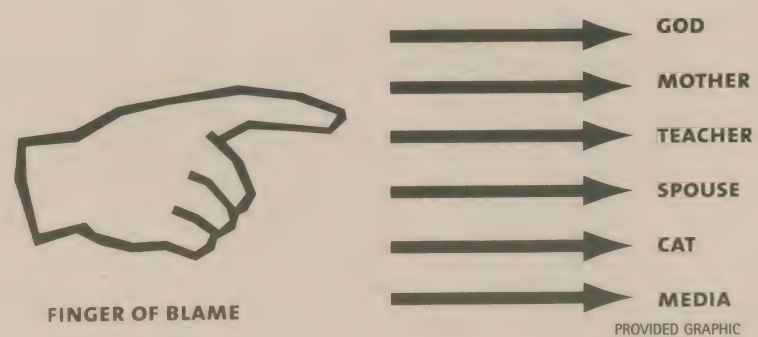
A delightfully stupid self-help book

Get Stupid
By T.O. Strong
Arrogant Bookworms Publishing

by Graham Stark



FINGER OF BLAME
PROVIDED GRAPHIC

Not content with merely ruling the world of comedic music, Trevor Strong of the Canadian comedy band The Arrogant Worms has written a book that's every bit as funny as his band's music.

Written by T.O. Strong—because it sounds more pretentious than "Trevor"—*Get Stupid* is a "self-help" book that dispenses advice on how to become, well . . . stupid. Using the "Ignorance IS Bliss" method, Strong illustrates the seven steps to bliss because stupidity equals ignorance, which equals bliss.

Get Stupid hilariously lampoons standard self-help books, with "helpful" phrases in the margins and tons of brilliant little diagrams on why this system works and how you can increase your IQ, or Ignorance Quotient.

The book begins with a test of your Ignorance Quotient, and once it is established that you need this book's help, it explains in detail the seven steps to bliss. Strong then shows how to easily simplify your world on topics from politics to sex to lawn care.

For an example of the book's cynicism, this is its explanation of preschool: "When your parents became bored with you, you were sent to preschool, where you were taught to share, feel and nap. Of these three, only napping is worthwhile. Sharing and feeling, as you now know, were taught to enslave you."

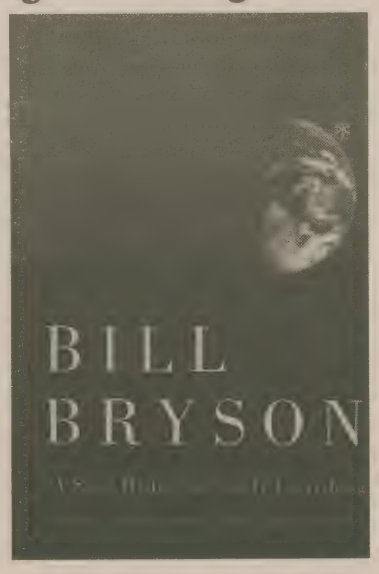
Strong says he designed the book as a light read, and it is, but that's not to say it's not worth your time. In short, *Get Stupid* is a very funny book, and you certainly don't have to be a fan of The Arrogant Worms to enjoy it.

And remember: "When opportunity knocks, lock the door."

Reading nearly everything

A Short History of Nearly Everything
By Bill Bryson
Broadway

by David Crow



This wonderful book travels easily through a realm of heady scientific discovery. Visiting with the gigantic minds that shaped the world of science, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* points out their idiosyncrasies and shortcomings in the same lighthearted manner as it instructs their groundbreaking ideas. Critics have railed against a supposed lack of thoroughness in the book, saying that Bryson simply dabbles and then moves on, but in defence of the absent author, it must be pointed out that this is exactly what he intended.

An admittedly ambitious work, *A Short History* takes all the various branches of science and mashes them together in a big pot. The chapters slide from anthropology to microbiology to astronomy to chemistry, and millions of years flash back and forth as Bryson forges ahead unrelentingly in his attempt to provide that elusive creation—an interesting book about science. The product of three intensive years digesting stodgy and inaccessible texts, *A Short History* emerged from the library dust spilling over with the same delight and fascination that pushed Bryson toward this project in the first place. It positively topples with metaphor and analogy as Bryson does his utmost to keep his subject within easy reach of a general audience by setting universes upon football fields and expanding atoms to the size of elephants.

So why did Bill Bryson, author of such well-known travelogues as *Notes From a Small Island*, *A Walk in the Woods* and *In a Sunburned Country*, drastically switch gears in order to write a science book? Because he was fascinated by the big questions of our world and bored to hell by the answers, at least in the form that he could find them. Like a true martyr, he took upon his shoulders those three years of painstaking library research so we wouldn't have to.

Bryson is a novelist (of sorts), and in this particular book, atoms, molecules, quasars, fossils and bacteria serve as his characters. They strut about his stage, deliver their lines, entertain the crap out of the audience and tell their story very well. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* wasn't planned to be a textbook, and most likely will never be used as a textbook.

And Bill Bryson will be well pleased with that.

Lame lyrics, bad times

Charlie Robison
Good Times
Dualtone

by Andi Bergen

Charlie Robison's *Good Times* is his first studio release since *Step Right Up* in 2001, and it's a dull country album with lyrics of questionable intelligence ruining an occasionally great musical performance.

The CD contains 11 new songs, and the title track "Good Times" congenially combines country music and some rock elements. Yet like almost all of the songs on this CD, the musical near-masterpiece is destroyed by senseless lyrics like "act like a virgin / Act like a sore loser or winner, they'll both do fine."

Excellent musical skills surface in the instrumental part of "Big City Blues." For 25 seconds, we get to listen to the harmony of drums and guitar. Robison seems to have a talent for combining various instruments in such a way that they produce a (sometimes funky) rock and country fusion. Unfortunately on this CD, such moments of excellence are very rare and are interrupted much too soon by foolish lyrics. One example is found in the song "Love Means Never Having To Say You're Hungry," which contains the not-so-clever lyric, "I like to stick my face close to it / And put it on my tongue / And I don't pick my head back up / Until she says I'm done." Supposedly Robison is singing about his wife's cooking.

Because of the frequently lowbrow lyrics, which won't even appeal to drunk rednecks with extra-large cowboy hats, *Good Times* produces serious bad times for any rock or country fan.

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Victoria bands share their wisdom

compiled by Rebecca Peric

Are you wondering what it takes to see your name in lights? Do you hanker for rockstar infamy, libellous stories about you in Hollywood tabloids and compromising Internet videos of you and Tommy Lee getting naked in a tub full of bean dip? Then take a look at these brilliant nuggets of inspirational advice from a veritable bevy of ubertalented Victoria musicians.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The scruffy boys of RCR.

Thomas Shields, RUN CHICO RUN

First you have to establish your primary objective. Why are you starting a band in the first place? The answer is: to score loads of young dudes—preferably greasy young dudes. Okee dokee, primary objective established. How to achieve objective? Saxophone. Your band should have no less than three saxophones and, really, the more, the better. If you look back through history, pretty much all the best bands ever had over three saxophones. So there you go. Easy. But how, you ask, do I set my band apart from all those other wicked three-sax bands? This time the answer is star chime. Star chime + saxophones = hot band = tons of greasy young dudes. Simple.

Brandon James Mason, MORNING CALL

I honestly don't think there are "dos" and "don'ts" about this business because bands get to where they are by doing different things. People told us we were stupid for trying to get signed to a label so soon, but they only knew half the story. If we had listened, we wouldn't be here right now. The only "do" I have is: no matter what happens along the way, remember why you're doing it, who you are and never give up—plain and simple. If you follow those easy steps, there's no reason why you can't be on top of the world.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The young punks of Jacob's Fall.

Jacob Redlin, JACOB'S FALL

1. Don't be picky: you're not a rock star yet. (Someone in the business found out about us through a show we played out of a trailer in a Sooke mall parking lot.)
2. Even the best equipment is subject to Murphy's Law. (We've had Marshall cabs implode, Sabian cymbals fly off stands, Mesa bass rigs stop functioning altogether and the occasional laryngitis.)
3. Bring a carpet. Your drummer will otherwise have to chase his bass drum across the room.
4. Don't plug guitars and vocal mikes into the same outlet. Electrocution isn't pretty.
5. Be careful what you tell promoters. (We were once asked if we played rock, and our guitarist said "Bingo." The show poster read "Jacob's Fall, Reliable Bingo Rock.")
6. Make sure to duplicate a good amount of your CDs. A thousand of them can make for a lot of coasters.
7. Watch what you eat. Lactose intolerance and Taco Time can make for a bad combination. There's a whole new meaning for stage fright.
8. Don't schedule your shows during NHL Stanley Cup playoffs. Not that you can anymore.
9. Always end on a good note.

Tristan Tarr, THESET

Do what's right for your band over anything else. If you love music and feel like it's the only thing worth doing then don't let anything fuck it up. Girls, booze, drugs—that shit comes later when you're signed to a major label and have nothing to do but watch the steady decline of your youth.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The long-legged Kincaide.

Dusty Tweedhope, KINCAIDE

From my experience the only time I started to go anywhere with music was to get out in the scene and fully commit to being in a band. Know others in the scene and know what they're up to. Just stay in touch with people. Don't ever burn your bridges. You'll never know when you'll have to turn to an old friend/musician.

Tim Rodier, MONEYSHOT

1. You must do it because it's fun. Any other reason and you're in for a horrible life.
2. Play what you like, even if it sounds like someone else's song. There will always be people who don't like what you play and think it's unoriginal crap. It's just 'cause they're jealous—fuck 'em. But if you hate your music as well, you're in for a horrible life.
3. Pick a name and stick with it. Your style will change over time, but you'll be surprised that the kid who loved your band when you played sloppy punk rock still likes you when you're playing acid jazz. Besides, if you change your name all the time, no one will know who you are anymore.
4. Negotiate the evils—drugs, booze, managers, agents. You don't need any of them, but they can serve a purpose if used correctly. (The Eagles' trips to the desert come to mind.)
5. Practise lots so when you need it, you can pull anything out of your ass to save the day. Also, knowing how to play well really goes well with #4.
6. In the industry, "important" people aren't very important. It's a fact. Remember that.
7. Rock out. It's really important to enjoy yourself. If you can do that, nothing else really matters.

Dave Patrick, KILLING FLAW

If you don't enjoy playing, give up. I have seen so many people in bands complain about the money and say at gigs that it's all about the money. Well, it's not. Musicians hardly ever get paid. You might have to spend years paying for equipment, et cetera, before you get any payback. I've heard the most talented players moaning about having to practise and walking away from 10 hours of work with $10. You have to say "stop." Give up if you don't love to play.

Kris Degaust, ONE WILL FALL

Do: know what you want out of it (career, fun, fame). And make sure you're in a band with like-minded people.

Don't: worry too much about a bad show or bad press. You can always get better.

Jean-Paul Maurice, MAURICE

Who am I to say what some should and shouldn't do in a band because a band is a band of musicians, and music is art, and art is expression and opinion. If you're not in a band for any of those reasons, then you probably shouldn't be in a band.

Being in a band is like a relationship, and if you want to have a successful relationship, just like any in life, you need to practise; honesty, communication, love, compromise, et cetera. It's worked well for us to keep that in mind.

Jocelyn Greenwood, JETS OVERHEAD

The more that I learn about the music business, the more I find there is no rhyme or reason to it. I can't pretend to understand much, but here are a few tips:

1. If a Hell's Angel makes a request while you are on stage, play it, even if you don't know the song.
2. Be schooled in the art of siphoning. When you run out of gas in the middle of nowhere—and you will—any tractor, skidoo or threshing machine will do.
3. Make your own game plan and follow it as closely as you can.
4. Believe in yourself and your bandmates.
5. Beg, borrow and steal all the advice you can get, then weed through it and use what works for you.
6. Above all else, don't let anyone else cause you to lose sight of the only rule: love what you do.

There is so much more that you need to know, but let's face it, you're going to have to learn it the hard way. It won't be easy, but it will be fun.

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EDIBLE REVIEWS | AMNESIAC DOUBLE IPA

A beer to remember

by Ford Walker

What: Amnesiac Double IPA by Phillips Brewing Co.
How Much: $4.10 for a one-litre bottle
Alcohol content: 8.5%

Phillips Brewing released another of its long line of craft brews last month, the Amnesiac Double IPA. At 8.5 per cent alcohol and with a strong, distinct flavour, it has become quite a crowd pleaser.

For those not in the know, IPA stands for India Pale Ale. Contrasting the generally bitter flavours of an ale with an overabundance of sweet and aromatic hops, India Pale Ales are generally a staple of craft and microbreweries. There are at least six brewed in Victoria alone, and each has its own distinct characteristics, but the hoppy scent and higher alcohol are standards of the brew. If you go even farther with hops and malt (another major ingredient in beer), say, double the amount, you would find yourself with a double IPA.

Double IPAs are generally higher in alcohol and hoppiness, but balancing them perfectly can be hard. Many become too bitter, but Phillips has done an excellent job of balancing the flavours.

"A lot of American double IPAs are intensely bitter," says brewmaster Matt Phillips. "The B.C. market tends more towards hoppiness, and we kept this in mind when we made [the Amnesiac]." The bitter path is completely avoided, and instead the Amnesiac is very sweet because of the liberal use of Northwest hops, most of which come from the Yakima valley in Washington. Phillips even describes the amount of hops as "going overboard," but this isn't generally reflected in the beer and it was exactly what was necessary to keep it original.

Some college students are probably interested in the high alcohol content, and for good reasons. While the beer is rather expensive, I found that one bottle would get you good enough for the evening. "We didn't design it to be a six-pack beer," says Phillips. "The high alcohol per cent wasn't a major concern when we were brewing."

Unlike most high alcohol percentage beers, however, the Amnesiac does not have an extremely alcoholic flavour to it. This is definitely a bonus, but if you were to do a night of heavy drinking, I doubt you'd notice how much alcohol was in it until after the bottle was finished.

PROVIDED PHOTO

India Pale Ales are generally a staple of craft and microbreweries.

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The Vic/Van music divide: a study in omission

by Matthew Wilson

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

It may sound blunt and a little harsh, but Victoria's concert scene sucks.

Time and time again Victoria is conspicuously left off the list of tour stops for many great acts. Whether big or small, pop or indie, rock or rap, mainstream or underground or anything otherwise, Victoria is rarely acknowledged by the music world. Some blame the population, some the venues and some the age demographic—all excuses aside, Victoria should have a burgeoning concert scene.

Victoria's scene is not at a total loss. The local music community is progressive, and some great acts brave the ferry after a stop in Vancouver. But most of the acts that do stop in town are either young Canadian bands trying to make a name for themselves or established Canadian bands that know they can draw a crowd. Aside from those, you may find an occasional rap, reggae or indie act play a club in town but only a few times a year. The problem is quantity, not quality. Victoria's music fans continually find themselves having to make the trek to Vancouver to catch their favourite shows that don't stop on the Island.

Obviously the comparison between the acts that Vancouver and Victoria receive is a question answered by a simple population difference. The Greater Vancouver region is creeping up on 2.5 million people, while Greater Victoria is a mere 325,000. But if we're going to believe that population is the main factor controlling tour stops, let's take look at some recent spring tours and where they stopped.

International rock giants Stone Temple Roses (a.k.a. Velvet Revolver) are now on an international tour that includes Canada, minus Victoria. Alongside Canadians Three Days Grace, the band will be stopping in seven Canadian cities, including Hamilton and Saskatoon. While Hamilton does outweigh Victoria with a 490,270 population, Saskatoon is only home to 229,500 people.

English mod-rockers the Futureheads, along with Victoria's own Hot Hot Heat, are also touring through Saskatoon, as well as Guelph, Ont. (pop. 117,344) and Whistler (pop. 9,600). But no Victoria.

Screamo punkers Alexisonfire will be hitting Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Sydney, N.S.; Moncton, N.B.; and Fredericton, N.B. on their cross-country tour. All four cities don't have a combined population to equal Victoria's. The icing on this cake is that rappers Gift of Gab, Lateef the Speaker, and Lyrics Born will be venturing on separate tours to the B.C. cities of Kelowna (pop. 98,000) and Nelson (pop. 10,000), but not Victoria. Nelson and not Victoria? It's a little offensive.

Is Victoria just not an attractive spot for musical acts? We have a number of clubs (Lucky, Sugar, Legends, Central) that house live acts, and a few formal venues (McPherson Playhouse, Royal Theatre). Also, with the final touches being put on the Save-On-Foods Centre, the city has a new 7,000-seat venue to offer. Hopefully the stadium will start to attract newer, bigger bands like Velvet Revolver in the future instead of stale acts like Tom Jones and Cher. But fans themselves can also make a huge difference, especially Victoria's many students.

Students are the largest fan base for basically every show that comes through town. We need more promoters to get on the "Vic-Train." This means more posters, advertisements, newspaper articles, radio exposure and general endorsement all over. Ads for great concerts and bands are a hell of a lot more tolerable than student election banners and bus-sized pictures of the Dodd's furniture guy. The more acts that come and see that Victoria can fill a club or bar or stadium for them, the more will follow. The problem is that too many Victoria music lovers simply expect that their favourite bands won't come to town. Most assume that they will have to jump on the ferry no matter what. But that can change.

Recently, a friend of mine complained to a Vancouver radio station that they weren't promoting a tour for the band the Secret Machines nearly enough. A representative of the station replied to his complaint with the suggestion that he e-mail the band and tell them to come to Victoria. Not a bad idea.

Every band has a webpage these days. If you want your favourite band to come here, just freakin' tell them to! After 10 or so emails, it may sway their opinion about the capital city. You may even start a Victorian musical revolution. Instead of just being pleasantly surprised that the Killers or De la Soul or the Eagles of Death Metal decided to come to town, we have to start expecting it.

This whole idea reminds me of *Field of Dreams*. If we build it, will they come? I believe they will. If we build up the scene, our favourite bands will come, and they'll keep coming. That's the way we'll improve the concert scene in Victoria. More packed clubs, more promotion and more live music! So get your ass out to every show you can, and tell all your friends to do the same. We need to prove that Victoria is a reliable and supportive venue for great music and great bands—big and small.

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Achievements: Our resource library loans thousands of items to students every year. Our Research Internship Program funds student researchers to conduct research for community groups and get course credit. We offer a series of popular workshops on research and citizenship skills. Recent VIPIRG projects include promoting urban agriculture, successfully lobbying for a low-cost dental clinic, being a vocal participant in the anti-war effort, providing a prominent voice against cuts to Income Assistance in BC, and releasing reports Ripple Effects: the Need to Assess the Impacts of Cruise Ships in Victoria B.C.

Refunds: Every UVIC student is a member of VIPIRG and pays a membership due through their student fees. Undergrads pay 3$ per full time semester or $1.50 per part time semester. Grad students pay 2$ per semester. This fee is refundable by cheque to students during a refund period each semester.

The **Fall 2004 semester refund period** will be held **Thursday March 17, 2005– Friday, April 1, 2005** Refund forms can be picked up at the VIPIRG offices in SUB B120-122.
info: 472-4558. Forms will be posted outside the office for convenience of students coming outside office hours.

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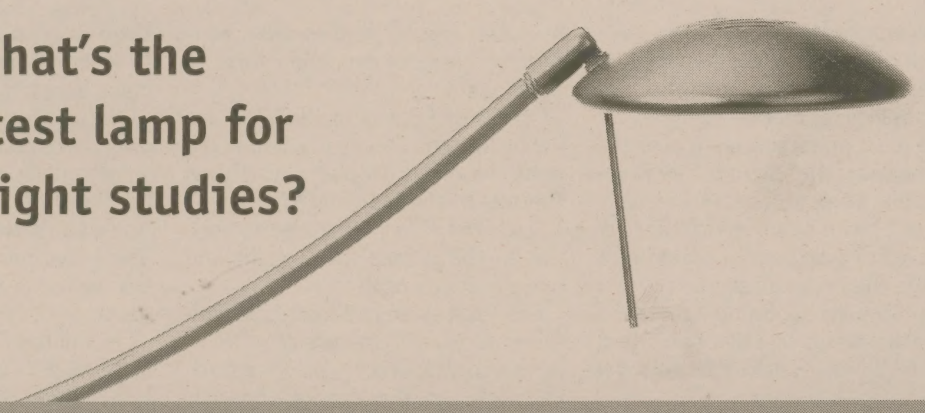

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BASICS

Juggling fest comes to UVic

'New jugglers will find most jugglers very friendly and ready to demo or teach tricks'

by Erika Van Winden

What: Victoria Juggling Festival
When: Friday, March 11 @ 5 p.m.
Where: Michele Pujol Room, UVic Student Union Building
How Much: $30 for the weekend, $25 for students, $10 per day. Tickets for "Out of Hand" are $8 to $12 at Bolen Books and at www.vicjugfest.com

The University of Victoria's juggling club will be hosting its very first juggling festival in just under a decade from March 11 to 13.

"Each day there will be open juggling in the festival space—not only can people practise their own skills, they can hang out and watch some of the best jugglers in the world work on their tricks" said Victoria Juggling Festival organizer Kirsten Larmon.

Spectators can watch juggling competitions in the Michele Pujol room and learn juggling techniques in the many workshops in and outside Vertigo. To name just a few, workshop instructors include professional performer Maksim Komaro from Finland (who will be visiting Canada for the first time), Ryan Mellor who is currently based in England, and UVic jugglers Aaron Gregg and Blake Speers.

The event's highlight will be featured on Saturday at Victoria High School. "Out of Hand" is an evening performance by some of the best international jugglers. It not only includes the technical and artistic styles of juggling but also features comedic juggling, magic tricks and other fancy skills. Performers include Komaro, International Juggling Association silver-medalist Lana Bolin, and Sean Anderson from Halifax.

"Saturday night will [also] feature a high-skill technical juggling act with three and four clubs . . . as well as more artistically driven pieces such as a contact juggling," said Mark Weston, president of the UVic Juggling Club.

The festival is expecting all age groups and all skill levels. There will be teachings for everything from beginner jugglers who practise with three balls up to "unicycle trials," in which performers teach and perform amazing tricks aboard unicycles.

"New jugglers will find most jugglers very friendly and ready to demo or teach tricks, and will find so many skills to excel in, regardless of the skill they came in with," said Speers. He emphasized there is no better place to learn than at a festival.

An introduction to boomerang throwing and devilsticks is also scheduled in the packed performance schedule. And finally, for those who get hooked on juggling by the end of the weekend or want to continue juggling to enhance their skills, vendors will be selling juggling equipment, books, magazines and videos all weekend long.

For more information on the event, visit the Victoria Juggling Festival website.

CIS finals are underway in Winnipeg

Sports editors from across the country were contacted to provide briefs regarding their respective teams

Simon Fraser University Clan (1)
Sports Editor: Amanda McCuaig,
The Peak

There's no doubt that the SFU Clan women's basketball team has done outstanding this year. With more than 35 consecutive wins, the women have come out as number one in the country, first in the Canada West Playoffs and a qualifier for nationals. Their strength lies in their ability to co-operate both on and off the courts. "Our team is so diverse, and we can score from so many different spots," said team captain Dani Langford.

The team's strong emphasis on working as a unit has helped to power them through the season. "It's not like one person is standing out and getting the high scores every game," added Julia Wilson, the team's leading rebounder and scorer. "We have different people [coming out on top] every game."

University of Victoria Vikes (2)
Sports Editor: Mike Berry,
The Martlet
It has been a great season for the University of Victoria women's basketball team. Since January, the Vikes have been fluctuating between third and fourth place in the CIS rankings, up from sixth and seventh in the first half of the season. To make it into the Canada West finals, the Vikes defeated the University of Winnipeg's second-ranked Wesmen in two games of a three-game series. Leading the Vikes into the post-season are Jody Potts, Canada West Defensive Player of the Year, and Jania Mynott. Both Potts and Mynott were named Canada West Second Team all-stars.

Winnipeg Wesmen (3)
Sports Editor: Leighton Klassen,
The Uniter
The success of the Wesmen can be attributed to the efforts of all its players, but it is hard not to single out Joanne Wells as being the sole force behind their powerful offence.
The fifth-year veteran led the CIS in points per game with 24.28 and was 12th in field goals shooting 52.9 per cent. The team's 17–3 record is also attributable to the play of veteran Heather Thompson. Thompson dominated the team in rebounds, posting 91 offensive and 118 defensive shots. Rookie of the year Jenny Ezirim led the Wesmen in steals with 84. The team has had great success in the CIS championship—in the last two they have brought home a bronze and silver.

Laval Rouge et Or (4)
Point leaders: Caroline D'amours, 11.81 points per game (PPG) and Josee Lalonde, 11.62 PPG.

University of Regina Cougars (5)
Sports Editor: Chris Jaster,
Regina Carillon
The Cougars are coming off of a huge high as they enter the 2005 CIS championship. They defeated last year's national champions, the UBC Thunderbirds, in the Canada West semifinal and then lost by five to the undefeated and top-ranked Simon Fraser University Clan to win silver. Leading the charge for the mainly young Cougars are fifth-year guard Jana Schweitzer, averaging 16 points per game, and fifth-year forward Leah Anderson, averaging 10.4 points per game. Both athletes are making their fourth appearance at the national finals and are trying to end their careers the way they started it—with a CIS title.

Guelph Gryphons (6)
Sports Editor: Simon Druker,
The Ontarion
The Guelph Gryphons enter the post-season with a 13-game win ning streak including two playoff wins (their last loss was Jan. 7). Guelph is led by Sharon Hollinshead and Steph Yallin, both Ontario University Association (OUA) first team all-stars. Head coach Angela Orton was named OUA West Coach of the Year. The Gryphs like jumping out to fast starts and rarely allow opponents a chance to get into the game. They're a young team with no graduating players this year, leaving them entirely intact for next season. Scoring is usually spread. Not relying heavily on specific individual performances to carry them, the potential is high for any player to have a big night. The Gryphons are an all-around team combining strong defensive skills with deadly accurate shooters.

Memorial University Sea-Hawks (7)
Sports Editor: John Rieti,
The Muse
The Sea-Hawks are the 2005 CIS Championship underdogs. They have spent most of the season out of the CIS top 10, only occasionally flirting with the 10th position. After beating rival University College of Cape Breton in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) finals, stars Jenine Browne and Amy Dalton will be ready for the rest of Canada. While many don't expect much, the Hawks expect to win every game they play.

Ottawa Gee-Gees (8)
Sports Editor: Melanie Ho,
The Fulcrum
With the Gee-Gees having lost 87–68 to the Guelph Gryphons in the OUA championship final, the Gees find themselves in eighth position going into nationals. This year marks only the second time the Gee-Gees have made it into the nationals. It's safe to say that they are going in as real underdogs, but look for veterans Moriah Trowell and Kristen Moyle to lead the way.

BASKETBALL BRIEF

Vikes take silver
The Vikes men's basketball team was blown away in the Canada West finals last weekend, losing to the University of Alberta Golden Bears, 72–54. Though the Vikes take home silver, both teams will advance to the CIS Championship on March 17.

Alberta had home court advantage and was quick to take the lead. In the first 10 minutes the Vikes defence was absent, allowing the Golden Bears to tally 23 points to UVic's seven.

In the second half the Vikes didn't fare any better.

In the first few minutes of the second, Alberta upped their lead to 26 points.

It was disastrous for the Vikes who managed to gain only eight points on the Bears before the game was over.

The CIS Championship will be in Halifax from March 17 to 20.

—compiled by MB

NIC HUME PHOTO

Though it was the women who came up big this weekend, the Vikes men didn't make it easy for their competitors.

UVic hosts successful Elk Lake Regatta

The competition was tight, but the Vikes walk away with seven victories

by Martlet Staff

The Vikes played host to the annual Elk Lake Spring Regatta last weekend that attracted a record 1,142 athletes competing in 101 races. The weather provided great conditions for rowing which made for some tight races.

It seems many of the Vikes were still on the water as *the Martlet* was unable to reach team members or coaches for comments.

The most dominant team over the weekend was the Victoria City Rowing Club. They walked away with a total of 12 wins to seven on Saturday and five more on Sunday, including a upset in the JV men's eight.

The Victoria Training Centre, a team consisting of Olympians and World Athletes, finished the two-day event with six victories.

UVic's rowing team was also able to put in a good performance, winning seven races over the course of the Regatta.

On the first day of racing UVic was led by Romina Stefancic winning the open women's single, and Sheryl Preston in the lightweight women's single. The Vikes were also victorious in the novice men's eight and open women's pair.

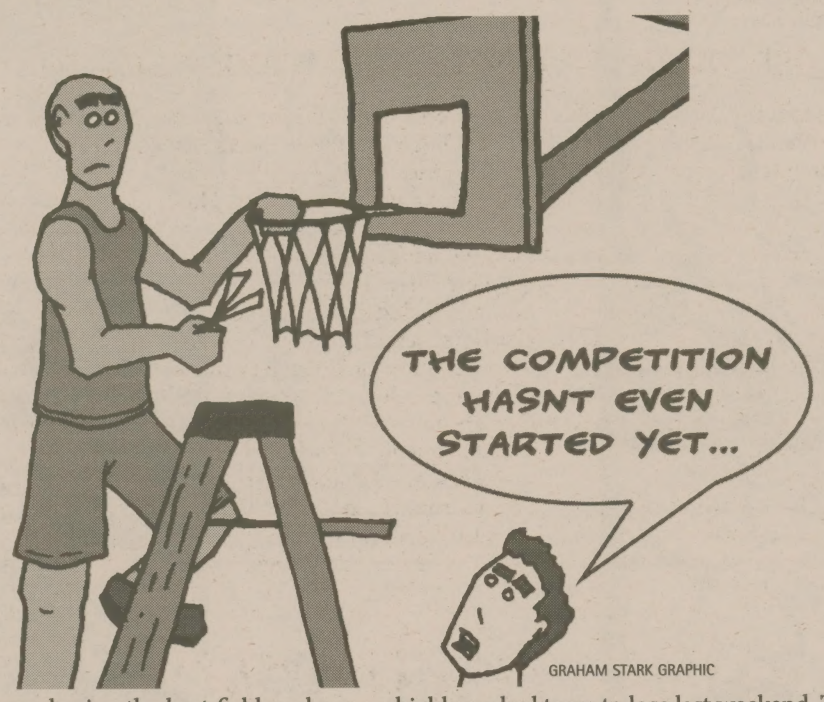
The Vikes were in a tight heat with Oregon State University (OSU). Both teams found themselves trading victories throughout the day. OSU took the novice eight, but the Vikes won a hard-fought battle in the JV women's eight, beating Oregon by half a boat length.

On the second day, the Vikes won only two competitions, but they were crucial victories to maintain the bragging rights over their crosswater rivals, the UBC Thunderbirds. The Vikes defeated UBC in the Varsity women's four and JV women's four.

Overall the Elk Lake Spring Regatta proved to be a great success for UVic, both as competitors in the event and as hosts.

NCAA's March Madness coming soon

by Matthew Wilson



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

The coming of spring marks the coming of madness—March Madness. The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament gets underway in less than a week and, as it does every year, promises to deliver the highest calibre basketball around.

Forget the big contracts and the sponsorships. For a small number of outstanding players this opportunity may arise later, but most won't get that shot. For all players involved, this is the showcase of their basketball careers, and nobody takes it lightly.

The format is unlike any other. Sixty-four teams voted by the National College Athletics Association (NCAA) Selection Committee are seeded, ranked and put into four separate brackets that ultimately create the Final Four. In professional sports, playoffs take months, but in the NCAA it takes a mere 21 days to go from 64 teams to one. It's put up or shut up basketball—survival of the fittest: you play a bad game and you go home. It's that simple.

The major players consist of teams like the undefeated and number-one-ranked Illinois. Their undefeated record was shattered by Ohio State last week, but it should come more like a blessing in disguise. No team has entered the NCAA tournament undefeated since the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1991. UNLV ultimately lost to Duke University in the finals.

North Carolina (NC) hasn't looked this good in years, having the best field goal percentage and second-ranking in three-point shots and fouls shots. They have only three losses this past year and lead the league in points. Though Duke ruined NC's 11–0 run in the final minutes of their game last week, the team showed drive and determination and have real potential to be tournament champions.

The Kentucky Wildcats are yet another highly ranked team to lose last weekend. The Wildcats have the most tournament wins in the history of the NCAA and are led by future NBA star Kelena Azubuike, the hot hands of guard Patrick Sparks and the power of senior forward Chuck Hayes.

The Wake Forest Demon Deacons are ranked number four and are the best team in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Demon Deacons haven't looked this solid since the departure of their Hall of Fame centre Tim Duncan. It's their young talent currently running the team. The three leading scorers—guard Justin Gray (junior), centre Eric Williams (sophomore), and point guard Chris Paul (sophomore), all average more than 15 points per game.

The Boston College Eagles surprisingly enter the tournament ranked 5th. Boston College had an undefeated season until they were beat by Villanova on Feb. 21. Though they have had impressive victories over Syracuse and Connecticut, Boston College will have their work cut out for them in the tournament. With little experience or success in past tournaments, combined with a spot in a tough bracket, this could easily mean an early departure for the Eagles.

Other teams to watch are Louisville, Duke, Oklahoma State, Gonzaga and Villinova. Three teams that have had recent Final Four victories with the same players on the team are Connecticut, Kansas and Syracuse.

As of now the only teams who have secured tournament berths are Pennsylvania, Winthrop, Central Florida, Eastern Kentucky and Chattanooga—all of which are minor players.

Though the University of Connecticut (UConn) is the defending champion, the loss of Ben Gordon and Emeka Okafor is too big of a void to fill. UConn has had some crucial losses this season and aren't nearly as strong as they were a year ago.

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The University of Victoria Student Animal Legal Defense Fund is pleased to announce our hosting of ecofeminist and author Carol J. Adams. She will be presenting her slideshow on The Sexual Politics of Meat, on Sunday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in Room 158 in the Faculty of Law Fraser Building. Her presentation will be followed by a book signing and vegan reception.
For more info go to www.law.uvic.ca/saldf

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The UVic Juggling Club is hosting Victoria's **first ever international juggling festival**. Through the UVSS Sports Rec., the SUB will be host to a diverse group of some of the best jugglers in the world. Workshops and performances for all levels of ability. www.vicjugfest.com

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To my Dominican sweetheart: Are you wearing a skirt on a Friday? Well, your cheek implants look like they could use some kisses. Perhaps I will cuddle you to death.

Hey you, I know your secret identity. If you're nice maybe I won't tell anyone—Love Beaner.

You are better than steel wool, duct tape and homo milk. You are my pure strawberry jam.

The spam flies at midnight! Avoid the Cheese!

Happy International Women's Day, my Sisters. But am I the only one who sees irony in holding a bake sale for it?

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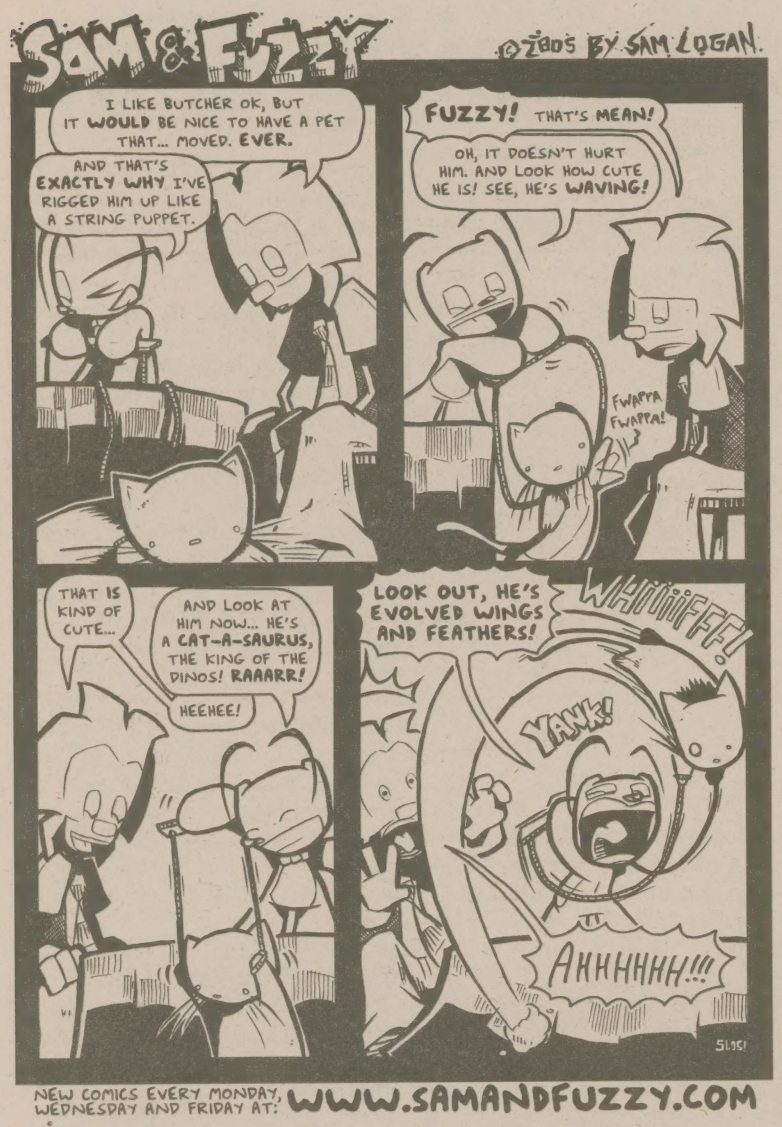
SAM & FUZZY
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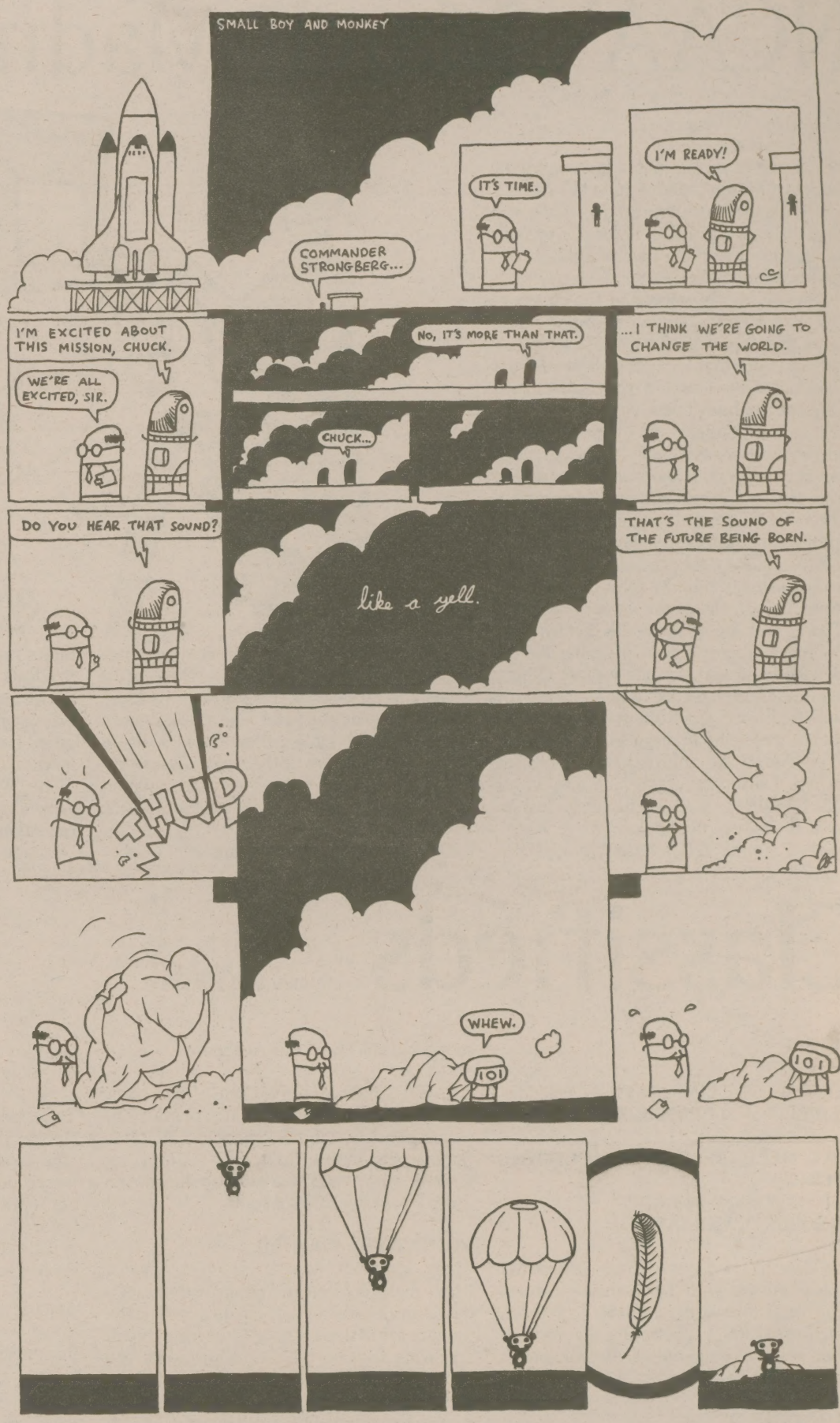
I LIKE BUTCHER OK, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A PET THAT... MOVED. EVER.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'VE RIGGED HIM UP LIKE A STRING PUPPET.
FUZZY! THAT'S MEAN!
OH, IT DOESN'T HURT HIM. AND LOOK HOW CUTE HE IS! SEE, HE'S WAVING!
FWAPPA FWAPPA!
THAT IS KIND OF CUTE...
AND LOOK AT HIM NOW... HE'S A CAT-A-SAURUS, THE KING OF THE DINOS! RAAARR!
HEEHEE!
LOOK OUT, HE'S EVOLVED WINGS AND FEATHERS!
WAHHHFF!
YANK!
AHHHHHH!!!
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM



Coasters Sketch
BORN OF THUNDER, FIRE AND MOUNTAIN
SHAPED BY THE AWESOME POWER OF THE SHIFTING EARTH
TESTED BY THE BARON ELEMENTS THAT OFFER NO MERCY...
ROCK IS THY NAME.
AND HE'S MY NEW FRIEND.
LET ME BE THE FIRST TO REMIND YOU THAT YOUR "NEW FRIEND" MARKS YOUR SECOND RELATIONSHIP WITH AN INANIMATE OBJECT.
LIG

This woman came into the bakery today and asked if we still carried these meat pies...
We didn't, and when I told her this, she just started bawling.
It was really unsettling!
Eventually, she stopped crying and said, "There was so much meat in them."
Hmm... Well, I can kind of relate to that. One time I was in the hardware store...
...and they had moved where they usually kept the batteries!
DISCEPATI

ROCK, PAPER AND SCISSOR
WHAT A RIDICULOUS CONTORTION! I OBVIOUSLY TERRIFY YOU!
AH. I AM PERFORMING IYENGAR YOGA. A SERIES OF RHYTHMIC-
PHOOEY!
SCISSOR MY FRIEND, OUR DUELS ARE EVER HARD-FOUGHT; I ADMIT TO A CASE OF NERVES. SO I USE THIS MYSTIC ART TO GIRD MY STONY LOINS...
LEAP!
MARTIN: MOONSHOES@GMAIL.COM
A SURPRISE-LUNGE!!
CLANG! BLUNT!
THE FEROCITY OF HIS SURPRISE-LUNGE... THE MALEVOLENCE OF HIS HAT... THE WHISTLE OF HIS KEEN EDGE... YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT! I WENT INTO AN 180° PIVOT MAN-
...ZZZZZ...
WOE ANGST

cool club spencerk.com

John Candidate
putting students firster

election platform:

- I have several obscure ideas to do a number of vague things
- I was that guy you saw dancing ontop of a tv at that party earlier this semester
- I've got a supreme flair at distributing campus spam (and I have great hair)

remember: vote 'yes' on the disability referendum! (or you'll go to hell)

vancouver victoria nanaimo gulf islands

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